etc. [*no obj*] — + *into* ▪ She was trying to *hack into* the network. ▪ Someone *hacked into* the company's financial records. [+ *obj*] The Web site had been *hacked*.

hack off [*phrasal verb*] **1 *hack (something) off* or *hack off (something)*** : to cut (something) off in a rough and violent way ▪ She used an ax to *hack* the dead branch *off* (the tree).

2 *hack (someone) off* *also* *hack off (someone)* *informal* : to make (someone) angry and annoyed ▪ It really *hacks* me *off* to see people treated so unfairly. — see also HACKED OFF

²hack *noun, pl* **hacks** [*count*]

1 : the act of hitting something roughly with an ax, knife, etc. ▪ He took a *hack* at the branch.

2 *baseball, informal* : SWING ▪ He took a *hack* at a high fastball and popped it up.

3 : a loud, dry cough ▪ a smoker's *hack*

– compare ³HACK

³hack *noun, pl* **hacks** [*count*]

1 *disapproving* **a** : a writer who produces a large amount of work mainly to make money ▪ a *hack* writer **b** : someone who does work that is not important or original ▪ a political *hack*

2 *US, old-fashioned* + *informal* : TAXI; *also* : the driver of a taxi : CABDRIVER

3 a : a horse that can be hired for use **b** : an old, worn-out horse

– compare ²HACK

hacked off *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *informal* : angry or irritated ▪ He was really *hacked off* when they lost the game.

hack•er /ˈhækɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

1 *computers* : a person who secretly gets access to a computer system in order to get information, cause damage, etc. : a person who hacks into a computer system

2 *US, informal* : a person who plays a sport badly ▪ My friends and I have been playing golf for years, but we're still just a bunch of *hackers*. ▪ a tennis *hacker*

hack•les /ˈhækəlz/ *noun* [*plural*] : hairs along the neck and back of an animal — often used figuratively with *raise* or *rise* to describe something that makes people angry or annoyed ▪ The court ruling is sure to ***raise some hackles*** [=sure to upset some people] ▪ Their arrogant attitude is what really ***made my hackles rise*** [=really made me angry]

hack•neyed /ˈhæknid/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not interesting, funny, etc., because of being used too often : not fresh or original ▪ *hackneyed* phrases/jokes

hack•saw /ˈhækˌsɑ:/ *noun, pl* **-saws** [*count*] : a saw used for cutting metal — see picture at CARPENTRY

had *past tense and past participle of* HAVE

had•dock /ˈhædək/ *noun, pl* **haddock** [*count, noncount*] : a fish that lives in the Atlantic Ocean and that is often eaten as food — see color picture on page C8

Ha•des /ˈheɪˌdi:z/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : the home of the dead in Greek mythology

2 *or* ***hades*** *informal* — used as a more polite way of saying "hell" ▪ It's hotter than *hades* today.

hadn't /ˈhædnt/ — used as a contraction of *had not* ▪ They *hadn't* arrived at the party yet. ▪ *Hadn't* we better be going now?

haemoglobin, haemophilia, haemophiliac, haemorrhage, haemorrhoid *Brit spellings of* HEMOGLOBIN, HEMOPHILIA, HEMOPHILIAC, HEMORRHAGE, HEMORRHOID

hag /ˈhæg/ *noun, pl* **hags** [*count*] *offensive* : an ugly, evil, or unpleasant old woman

hag•gard /ˈhægɚd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : looking very thin and tired especially from great hunger, worry, or pain ▪ She looked tired and *haggard*. ▪ We were shocked by his *haggard* appearance.

hag•gis /ˈhægəs/ *noun, pl* **-gis•es** [*count, noncount*] : a Scottish dish made from the organs of a sheep that are chopped up, mixed with suet, onions, oatmeal, and seasonings, and boiled in the stomach of the sheep

hag•gle /ˈhægəl/ *verb* **hag•gles**; **hag•gled**; **hag•gling** [*no obj*] : to talk or argue with someone especially in order to agree on a price ▪ I dislike having to *haggle* (with a salesman) over/about the price of a new car. ▪ She is good at *haggling*.

– **hag•gler** /ˈhægləɚ/ *noun, pl* **hag•glers** [*count*] ▪ a skillful *haggler*

ha•gi•og•ra•phy /ˌhægiˈɑ:grəfi/ *noun, pl* **-phies** *disapproving* : a book about someone's life that makes it seem better than it really is or was : a biography that praises someone too much [*count*] a *hagiography* about a famous politician [*noncount*] The book gives a good idea of his virtues without resorting to *hagiography*.

ha ha *or* **ha–ha** /ˈhɑ:ˈhɑ:/ *interj* — used to represent laughter ▪ "*Ha ha*! That's a good one!" he chuckled. — often used in an ironic way ▪ Oh, *ha ha*. That's very funny. [=that's not really funny at all]

hai•ku /ˈhaɪˌku/ *noun, pl* **haiku** *also* **hai•kus** : a Japanese form of poetry or a poem written in this form [*noncount*] a master of *haiku* [*count*] He has written many beautiful *haiku*. ✧ A haiku has three lines, with the first line containing five syllables, the second line containing seven syllables, and the third line containing five syllables again.

¹hail /ˈheɪl/ *noun*

1 [*noncount*] : pieces of ice that fall from clouds like rain ▪ Many cars were damaged by *hail* during the storm.

2 [*singular*] : a large number *of* small hard objects (such as bullets or stones) flying or falling together ▪ They were gunned down in a *hail of* bullets. ▪ a *hail of* pellets — often used figuratively ▪ The court's decision was met with a *hail of* criticism. [=was strongly criticized by many people]

²hail *verb* **hails**; **hail•ed**; **hail•ing** [*no obj*] — used with *it* to say that hail is falling ▪ *It's hailing* outside. [=hail is falling from the sky] — compare ³HAIL

³hail *verb* **hails**; **hailed**; **hailing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to speak of or welcome (someone or something) with praise or enthusiasm ▪ The town *hailed* him as a hero when he returned with the championship trophy. ▪ His supporters have *hailed* [=strongly praised] his decision to run for reelection. — often used as *(be) hailed* ▪ She is *being hailed* [=*acclaimed*] for her generosity. ▪ The new drug has *been* widely *hailed* as a great breakthrough.

2 : to call out in order to stop or get the attention of (someone or something) ▪ We *hailed* the passing ship. ▪ He *hailed* a taxi for me. — see also HAILING DISTANCE

hail from [*phrasal verb*] ***hail from (a place)*** : to have been born or raised in (a place) : to come from (a place) ▪ He *hails from* a small town in western Kansas.

– compare ²HAIL

hailing distance *noun* [*noncount*] : the distance within which it is possible to hear someone who is calling out ▪ They were within *hailing distance* of each other.

Hail Mary /-ˈmeri/ *noun, pl* ~ **Marys** [*count*]

1 : a Roman Catholic prayer to the Virgin Mary

2 *American football* : a long forward pass thrown into or close to the end zone as playing time runs out ▪ He threw up a *Hail Mary* at the end of the first half. ▪ a *Hail Mary* pass

hail•stone /ˈheɪlˌstoʊn/ *noun, pl* **-stones** [*count*] : a piece of hail

hail•storm /ˈheɪlˌstoɚm/ *noun, pl* **-storms** [*count*] : a storm that produces hail

hair /ˈheɚ/ *noun, pl* **hairs**

1 a [*count*] : a thin threadlike growth from the skin of a person or animal ▪ He plucked a *hair* from his arm. ▪ There are dog/cat *hairs* all over my coat. **b** [*noncount*] : a covering or growth of hairs ▪ The *hair* on her arms is blond. ▪ He has a lot of *hair* on his chest. ▪ facial/pubic *hair* **c** [*noncount*] : the covering of hairs on a person's head ▪ He got his *hair* cut last week. ▪ Your *hair* looks nice. ▪ She has long/black/straight *hair*. ▪ He has a thick/full head of *hair*. ▪ a balding man who is losing his *hair* ▪ a lock/strand of *hair* ▪ *hair* conditioners/curlers ▪ a *hair* dryer ▪ I'm having a ***bad hair day.*** [=my hair does not look nice today]

2 [*singular*] *informal* : a very small distance or amount ▪ He won the race by a *hair*. ▪ He was a *hair* off on the count.

hair of the dog (that bit you) *informal* : an alcoholic drink that is taken by someone to feel better after having drunk too much at an earlier time

hide or hair, hide nor hair see ²HIDE

in your hair *informal* ✧ Someone who is *in your hair* is bothering or annoying you. ▪ His wife says that since he retired he's *in her hair* all day because he's at home so much.

keep your hair on *Brit, informal* — used to tell someone not to become too excited or upset

let your hair down *informal* : to relax and enjoy yourself ▪ We work hard all week, so when Friday comes we like to *let our hair down* a little and have some fun.

make your hair curl *informal* ✧ If something *makes your hair curl*, it frightens, shocks, or surprises you. ▪ I've heard stories about that guy that would *make your hair curl*.

make your hair stand on end *informal* ✧ If something *makes your hair stand on end*, it frightens you. ▪ Just hearing his voice *makes my hair stand on end*.

not have a hair out of place *informal* : to have a very neat appearance ▪ a politician who *never has a hair out of place*

not turn a hair *informal* : to remain calm even though something frightening or shocking has happened ▪ Most people would have been very nervous in that situation, but she *never turned a hair.*

out of your hair *informal* ✧ Someone who is *out of your hair* is no longer bothering or annoying you. ▪ Let me take the children *out of your hair* while you cook dinner.

pull your hair out *or* ***tear your hair out*** *informal* : to be very worried or upset about something ▪ We've been *tearing our hair out* trying to decide what to do.

split hairs : to argue about small details or differences that are not important ▪ His lawyers are *splitting hairs* over the wording of his contract. — see also HAIRSPLITTING

– **haired** /ˈheɚd/ *adj* ▪ a long-*haired* cat ▪ a dark-*haired* person – **hair•less** /ˈheɚləs/ *adj* ▪ a *hairless* breed of cat

hair•brush /ˈheɚˌbrʌʃ/ *noun, pl* **-brush•es** [*count*] : a brush for the hair — see picture at GROOMING

hair•cut /ˈheɚˌkʌt/ *noun, pl* **-cuts** [*count*] : the act or result of cutting and shaping someone's hair ▪ The girls got *haircuts* yesterday. ▪ He just had a *haircut.* ▪ Do you like my *haircut*? ▪ a short *haircut*

– **hair•cut•ter** /ˈheɚˌkʌtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

hair•do /ˈheɚˌduː/ *noun, pl* **-dos** [*count*] : a way of cutting and arranging someone's hair ▪ a stylish *hairdo*

hair•dress•er /ˈheɚˌdrɛsɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a person who cuts and shapes hair

– **hair•dress•ing** /ˈheɚˌdrɛsɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ She is taking classes in *hairdressing.*

hair•grip /ˈheɚˌgrɪp/ *noun, pl* **-grips** [*count*] *Brit* : BOBBY PIN

hair•line /ˈheɚˌlaɪn/ *noun, pl* **-lines** [*count*]

1 : a thin line or crack ▪ The plate had a *hairline* running across it. — often used before another noun ▪ a *hairline* crack ▪ He suffered a *hairline* fracture of his shin bone.

2 : the line where your hair starts on your forehead ▪ He has a receding *hairline.*

hair•net /ˈheɚˌnɛt/ *noun, pl* **-nets** [*count*] : a net worn over someone's hair to keep it in place

hair•piece /ˈheɚˌpiːs/ *noun, pl* **-piec•es** [*count*] : a section of real or false hair that is worn to cover a bald spot on your head or to make your hair look longer, thicker, or a different color

hair•pin /ˈheɚˌpɪn/ *noun, pl* **-pins** [*count*]

1 : a pin that is worn in your hair; *especially* : a pin shaped like a U that is worn to hold your hair in place

2 : an extremely sharp turn in a road that is shaped like a U — often used before another noun ▪ a *hairpin* turn/curve

hair–rais•ing /ˈheɚˌreɪzɪŋ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : very frightening or exciting ▪ a *hair-raising* adventure/story

– **hair–rais•ing•ly** *adv*

hair's breadth *or US* **hair•breadth** /ˈheɚˌbrɛtθ/ *noun* [*singular*] : a very small distance or amount ▪ He came within a *hair's breadth* of winning the race. [=he came very close to winning the race] — often used before another noun ▪ a *hairbreadth* escape [=a very narrow escape]

hair slide *noun, pl* ~ **slides** [*count*] *Brit* : BARRETTE

hair•split•ter /ˈheɚˌsplɪtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*] : a person who argues about differences that are too small to be important

hair•split•ting /ˈheɚˌsplɪtɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the act of arguing about differences that are too small to be important ▪ The lawyers have been engaging in legalistic *hairsplitting.* — see also *split hairs* at HAIR

– **hairsplitting** *adj* ▪ lawyers making *hairsplitting* distinctions

hair•style /ˈheɚˌstajəl/ *noun, pl* **-styles** [*count*] : HAIRDO

hair•styl•ing /ˈheɚˌstaɪlɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the act or job of cutting and arranging people's hair ▪ the latest trends in *hairstyling*

– **hair•styl•ist** /ˈheɚˌstaɪlɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] ▪ a professional *hairstylist*

hair trigger *noun, pl* ~ **-gers** [*count*] : a trigger on a gun that needs very little pressure to cause the gun to shoot

hair–trig•ger /ˈheɚˌtrɪgɚ/ *adj, always used before a noun* : becoming angry very easily ▪ He has a *hair-trigger* temper.

hairy /ˈheri/ *adj* **hair•i•er**; **-est** [*also more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : covered with a lot of hair ▪ *hairy* arms ▪ a *hairy* chest

2 *informal* : causing fear or tension : dangerous or stressful ▪ The taxi ride got a little *hairy.* ▪ When the deadline approaches, things can get a little *hairy.*

– **hair•i•ness** /ˈherinəs/ *noun* [*noncount*]

hajj /ˈhæʤ/ *noun* [*singular*] : a journey to Mecca that is a religious duty for Muslims

hake /ˈheɪk/ *noun, pl* **hake** [*count, noncount*] : a large fish that lives in the Atlantic Ocean and is often eaten as food

ha•lal /həˈlɑːl/ *adj*

1 : accepted by Muslim law as fit for eating ▪ *halal* meat

2 : selling or serving halal food ▪ a *halal* butcher ▪ a *halal* restaurant

hal•cy•on /ˈhælsijən/ *adj, always used before a noun, literary* : very happy and successful — used to refer to a happy and successful time in the past that is remembered as being better than today ▪ She looks back fondly recalling the ***halcyon days/years*** of her career, when she was just out of college.

hale /ˈheɪl/ *adj* **hal•er**; **hal•est** [*also more* ~; *most* ~] : healthy and strong — usually used in the phrase ***hale and hearty*** ▪ His mother remains *hale and hearty* in her old age.

[1]half /ˈhæf, *Brit* ˈhɑːf/ *noun, pl* **halves** /ˈhævz, *Brit* ˈhɑvz/

1 : one of two equal or nearly equal parts into which something can be divided [*count*] She broke each cookie into *halves.* ▪ "Which *half* do you want?" "I'll take the smaller *half.*" ▪ Two *halves* make a whole. [*noncount*] The price has been reduced ***by half***. [=by 50 percent; by an amount that is

hair



afro



braid (*chiefly US*), plait (*chiefly Brit*)



dreadlocks



cornrows



pigtails



ponytail



part (*US*), parting (*Brit*)



bangs (*US*), fringe (*Brit*)



crew cut, buzz cut (*US*)

equal to one half of the original] — see also BETTER HALF, OTHER HALF

2 a [*count*] : either of the two equal periods of playing time in sports like football and basketball ▪ The team fell behind in the first *half* but rallied in the second *half* to win the game.

b *the half* : the time when the first half of a game ends ▪ The score was tied at *the half*. [=at halftime]

3 [*count*] *Brit, informal* : half a pint of a drink (such as beer) ▪ "What's yours?" "A *half* of lager, please."

and a half **1** — used in measurements of time, distance, weight, etc., to indicate one half of the unit of measurement ▪ My daughter is two and a *half* (years old). [=two years and six months old] ▪ The fish was a foot *and a half* long. [=one foot and six inches long] ▪ ten *and a half* pounds [=ten pounds and eight ounces] **2** *informal* — used to say that something is very good, large, difficult, etc. ▪ That was a meal *and a half*! [=that was a very big meal] ▪ Renovating a house is a job *and a half*. [=is a very difficult job]

by halves *informal* : in an incomplete way — used in negative statements to say that someone does things with a lot of energy and effort ▪ She never does anything *by halves*—it's all or nothing!

go halves *also* ***go half and half*** : to share the cost of something equally ▪ We decided to *go halves* (with each other) on the expenses.

in half : into two equal parts : into two halves ▪ She cut the apple *in half*.

the half of it *informal* — used to say that a situation is even worse than you think it is or than it seems to be ▪ "It sounds like you've been having some problems." "You don't know *the half of it*!" ▪ Sales are down but that's only *the half of it*—the company is closing several stores.

too . . . by half *chiefly Brit, informal* — used to say that someone or something has too much of a particular quality usually in a way that is annoying ▪ an arrogant politician who is ***too clever by half***

²half *pronoun* : a number or amount that is equal to one half of a total ▪ "Do you want the whole piece?" "*Half* would be enough, please." ▪ Thirty students took the exam; *half* (that number) passed. [=15 students passed] ▪ *Half* of 30 is/equals 15. ▪ I seem to spend *half* (of) the day on the phone. ▪ She gave *half* (of) her money to charity. ▪ *Half* a million people live in this area. ▪ Do you want *half* (of) my sandwich? ▪ *Half* the time the kids are outside playing. [=the kids are often outside playing] ▪ Getting to your destination is *half* the fun of a vacation. = Getting there is *half* the fun. ▪ *Half* the problem is that we do not have enough employees to handle the increased workload. ▪ I waited for ***half an hour*** [=30 minutes] ▪ Please wait (for) ***half a minute/second*** [=for a moment] while I try to connect you. ▪ ***half a dozen*** [=six] eggs ▪ He's always chasing women ***half his age*** [=women who are much younger than he is]

half the battle see ¹BATTLE

have half a mind see ¹MIND

³half *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : equal or nearly equal in size, value, amount, etc., to one half of something ▪ a *half* cup of coffee ▪ He owns a *half* share in the company. ▪ a *half* pound of cheese ▪ a *half* million people ▪ a *half* mile away ▪ a *half* circle ▪ a ***half dozen*** [=six] eggs — see also HALF HOUR, HALF PRICE

2 : not complete : PARTIAL ▪ She looked at him with a shy *half* smile. — often used in combination ▪ a shy *half*-smile ▪ We need resolute action, not timid *half*-measures.

⁴half *adv*

1 : to an extent that is equal or nearly equal to half of something ▪ The glass of water is *half* full/empty. ▪ The crowd was *half* cheering and *half* jeering. ▪ She's *half* French and *half* Italian. [=one of her parents is French and the other is Italian] ▪ The meeting began at ***half past*** two. [=at 2:30] = (*Brit*) The meeting began at *half* two. ▪ We arrived at the station at noon, and the train departed at *half past*. [=at 12:30] ▪ The train departed at *half past* the hour.

2 : not completely : to some degree : PARTIALLY ▪ He was only *half* aware of what was happening. ▪ She had *half* persuaded me to stay. ▪ The door was *half* open. ▪ These eggs are only *half* cooked. ▪ I was ***half asleep*** [=very tired; not completely awake] when you called. ▪ She looked ***half dead*** [=she looked very tired/ill]

half again as much/many (etc.) as (*US*) *or Brit* ***half as much/many (etc.) again as*** — used to say that the size or amount of one thing is 50 percent more than another ▪ If 100 people were expected and 150 came, *half again as many* people came *as* were expected. ▪ This dress costs *half again as much as* that one.

half as big/much/good (etc.) as — used to say that the size, amount, or quality of one thing is half or nearly half that of another ▪ The bush is *half as tall as* the tree. [=the tree is twice as tall as the bush] ▪ This dress costs *half as much as* that one. ▪ If 100 people were expected and 50 came, only *half as many* people came *as* were expected. ▪ If he can play the guitar *half as well as* he can sing, he should have quite a career. [=he will have a very successful career if he can play the guitar well, even if he doesn't play as well as he sings] ▪ The sequel isn't *half as good as* the original movie. [=the original movie was much better than the sequel]

half off — used to say that something is being sold at half the original price ▪ Peaches are *half off* today.

not half **1** : not nearly ▪ He's *not half* the fool you think he is. = He's *not half* so foolish as you think he is. [=he is much smarter than you think he is] ▪ an aging baseball player who is *not half* the hitter he once was [=he is not nearly as good as a hitter as he once was] **2** *Brit, informal* — used to emphasize a statement or description ▪ She *doesn't half* swear! [=she swears a lot] ▪ It's *not half* cold today! [=it is very cold today] ▪ "Is it cold out?" "*Not half*!" [=yes, it is very cold]

not half bad *informal* : surprisingly good ▪ Her singing was *not half bad*. [=not bad at all] ▪ The food there is *not half bad*. [=pretty good]

half–and–half /ˌhæfn̩ˈhæf, *Brit* ˌhɑːfn̩ˈhɑːf/ *noun* [*noncount*] *US* : a mixture of cream and whole milk ▪ She usually puts *half-and-half* in her coffee.

half–assed (*US*) /ˈhæfˈæst, *Brit* ˈhɑːfˈæst/ *or Brit* **half–arsed** /ˈhæfˈɑəst, *Brit* ˈhɑːfˈɑːst/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *informal + impolite*

1 : poorly done or planned ▪ He did a *half-assed* job.

2 : stupid or foolish ▪ a *half-assed* remark

half•back /ˈhæfˌbæk, *Brit* ˈhɑːfˌbæk/ *noun, pl* **-backs** [*count*]

1 *American football* : a player on offense who lines up next to the fullback and who runs with the ball and blocks

2 : a defensive player in games like soccer and field hockey who is positioned in front of the fullback

half–baked /ˈhæfˈbeɪkt, *Brit* ˈhɑːfˈbeɪkt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *informal* : not well planned : foolish or stupid ▪ a *half-baked* idea

half bath *noun, pl* ~ **baths** [*count*] *US* : a bathroom that has a sink and toilet but no bathtub or shower

half–breed /ˈhæfˌbriːd, *Brit* ˈhɑːfˌbriːd/ *noun, pl* **-breeds** [*count*] *offensive* : a person who has parents of different races; *especially* : a person who has a Native American parent and a white parent

– **half–breed** *adj*

half brother *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] : a brother with the same father but a different mother or the same mother but a different father ▪ George is my *half brother*.

half–caste /ˈhæfˌkæst, *Brit* ˈhɑːfˌkɑːst/ *noun, pl* **-castes** [*count*] *offensive* : a person who has parents of different races

– **half–caste** *adj*

half–cocked /ˈhæfˌkɑːkt, *Brit* ˈhɑːfˈkɒkt/ *adj, US, informal* : showing a lack of preparation or careful thought : stupid or foolish ▪ *half-cocked* officials/ideas

go off half-cocked (*US*) *or Brit* ***go off at half cock*** *informal* : to do or say something without preparing for it or thinking about it ▪ Before you *go off half-cocked*, try listening to the explanation.

half–dol•lar /ˈhæfˈdɑːlɚ, *Brit* ˈhɑːfˈdɒlə/ *noun, pl* **-lars** *US*

1 [*count*] : a coin that is worth 50 cents

2 [*singular*] : the sum of 50 cents ▪ kids selling lemonade for a *half-dollar* ▪ a *half-dollar* price increase

half•heart•ed /ˈhæfˈhɑɚtəd, *Brit* ˈhɑːfˈhɑːtəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : feeling or showing a lack of interest or enthusiasm ▪ a *half-hearted* smile ▪ *half-hearted* applause from the audience ▪ He made a *half-hearted* attempt to contact them.

– **half•heart•ed•ly** *adv* ▪ smiling *halfheartedly*

half hour *noun* [*singular*]

1 : 30 minutes ▪ Trains depart every *half hour*. : a period of time that lasts for 30 minutes ▪ I waited a *half hour* in line.

2 : the middle point of an hour ▪ Tours start ***on the half hour*** [=at 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, etc.]

half–life /ˈhæfˌlaɪf, *Brit* ˈhɑːfˌlaɪf/ *noun, pl* **-lives** [*count*] *technical* : the time it takes for a radioactive substance to lose half its radioactivity ▪ a *half-life* of 200,000 years — often

used figuratively to describe how long something remains useful or popular ▪ Slang usually has a short *half-life*. [=slang usually is popular for only a short time]

half–light /ˈhæfˌlaɪt, *Brit* ˈhɑːfˌlaɪt/ *noun* [*noncount*] : dim grayish light ▪ the *half-light* of early morning

half–mast /ˈhæfˈmæst, *Brit* ˈhɑːfˈmɑːst/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the position in the middle of a mast or pole ✧ A flag is flown ***at half-mast*** or lowered ***to half-mast*** to show respect for a person who has died.

half–moon /ˈhæfˌmuːn, *Brit* ˈhɑːfˌmuːn/ *noun, pl* **-moons**
1 [*singular*] : the moon when only half of it can be seen — compare FULL MOON, NEW MOON
2 [*count*] : something that is shaped like a half-moon ▪ The pattern consists of circles and *half-moons*. ▪ *half-moon* earrings [=earrings that are shaped like half-moons]

half note *noun, pl* ~ **notes** [*count*] *US* : a musical note equal in time to half of a whole note — called also (*Brit*) *minim*

half•pen•ny /ˈheɪpni/ *noun, pl* **-nies** /ˈheɪpniz/ [*count*] *Brit* : a former British coin worth one half of a penny

half–pipe /ˈhæfˌpaɪp, *Brit* ˈhɑːfˌpaɪp/ *noun, pl* **-pipes** [*count*] : a curved structure with high sides that is used for doing tricks on a skateboard, snowboard, etc.

half price *noun* [*noncount*] : half of the original price ▪ I bought these shoes at *half price*. = I paid *half price* for these shoes.
– **half–price** *adj* ▪ *half-price* items ▪ All winter coats are *half-price* today. – **half–price** *adv* ▪ Reserve now and fly *half-price*.

half shell *noun*
on the half shell : served in one of the two halves of the shell ▪ oysters *on the half shell*

half sister *noun, pl* ~ **-ters** [*count*] : a sister with the same father but a different mother or the same mother but a different father ▪ Emily is my *half sister*.

half–staff /ˈhæfˈstæf, *Brit* ˈhɑːfˈstɑːf/ *noun* [*noncount*] *US* : HALF-MAST

half step *noun, pl* ~ **steps** [*count*] *US, music* : SEMITONE

half•time /ˈhæfˌtaɪm, *Brit* ˈhɑːfˌtaɪm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the period of rest between the end of the first half and the beginning of the second half in games like football and basketball ▪ The score was tied at *halftime*. ▪ The coaches discussed strategy during *halftime*.

half•tone /ˈhæfˌtoʊn, *Brit* ˈhɑːfˌtoʊn/ *noun, pl* **-tones** [*count*] *technical*
1 : a shade of gray in a photograph ▪ using software to lighten/darken the picture's *halftones*
2 : an image printed by a method that creates many small dots

half–truth /ˈhæfˌtruːθ, *Brit* ˈhɑːfˌtruːθ/ *noun, pl* **-truths** [*count*] : a statement that is only partly true and that is intended to deceive people ▪ I'm tired of all these *half-truths*—I want to know the real story.

half•way /ˈhæfˈweɪ, *Brit* ˈhɑːfˈweɪ/ *adj*
1 : in the middle between two points ▪ She was leading at the *halfway* mark/point of the race. ▪ We're *halfway* toward completing the project.
2 *always used before a noun, informal* : not total or complete : PARTIAL ▪ They're only offering *halfway* measures, not a real solution.
meet (someone) halfway see ¹MEET
– **halfway** *adv* ▪ I was *halfway* home when I realized I had forgotten my briefcase. ▪ The project isn't done yet, but we're *halfway* there. ▪ He stopped *halfway* up the stairs. ▪ We left *halfway* through the speech. ▪ (*informal*) I'm willing to eat anywhere as long as the food is ***halfway decent*** [=fairly good]

halfway house *noun, pl* ~ **houses**
1 [*count*] : a place where people who have recently left a prison, mental hospital, etc., can live until they are considered ready to live by themselves
2 [*singular*] *chiefly Brit* : something that combines the qualities or features of two different things ▪ The car is the perfect *halfway house* between a family caravan and luxury sedan.

half–wit /ˈhæfˌwɪt, *Brit* ˈhɑːfˌwɪt/ *noun, pl* **-wits** [*count*] *informal* : a foolish or stupid person ▪ He says the people he works with are a bunch of *half-wits*.
– **half–wit•ted** /ˈhæfˈwɪtəd, *Brit* ˈhɑːfˈwɪtəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

hal•i•but /ˈhæləbət/ *noun, pl* **halibut** [*count, noncount*] : a large fish of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans that is often eaten as food

hal•i•to•sis /ˌhælәˈtoʊsәs/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : the condition of having breath that smells bad : bad breath

hall /ˈhɑːl/ *noun, pl* **halls** [*count*]
1 : a usually long, narrow passage inside a building with doors that lead to rooms on the sides ▪ The bathroom is down the *hall*. ▪ Her office is at the end of the *hall*.
2 : the area inside the entrance of a building ▪ I'll meet you in the front *hall*. ▪ The front door opens onto a large *hall*.
3 a : a large room or building for meetings, entertainment, etc. ▪ We rented a *hall* for the wedding reception. ▪ a concert/dining/dance *hall* ▪ a ***lecture hall*** [=*auditorium*] — often used in proper names ▪ Carnegie *Hall* ▪ the Hampden County *Hall* of Justice — see also CITY HALL, MESS HALL, MUSIC HALL, TOWN HALL **b** : a building where students live at a college or university : DORMITORY ▪ (*US*) a ***residence hall*** = (*Brit*) a ***hall of residence***
4 *Brit* : a large, impressive house — used in proper names ▪ The family owned Locksley *Hall* for generations.
the halls of power see ¹POWER
– see also STUDY HALL

¹hal•le•lu•jah /ˌhælәˈluːjә/ *interj* — used to express praise, joy, or thanks especially to God ▪ *Hallelujah*! Praise the Lord! ▪ It's the weekend! *Hallelujah*!

²hallelujah *noun, pl* **-jahs** [*count*] : a shout or song of praise or thanks to God

hall•mark /ˈhɑːlˌmɑәk/ *noun, pl* **-marks** [*count*]
1 : a quality, ability, etc., that is typical of a particular person or thing ▪ He had all the *hallmarks* of a great baseball player. ▪ Humor is one of the *hallmarks* of her style. ▪ The murder bore all the *hallmarks* of a serial killer's work. — compare EARMARK
2 : an official mark that is put on gold and silver objects in Britain to indicate their purity

Hall of Fame *noun, pl* **Halls of Fame** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a place that is like a museum with exhibits honoring the famous people and events related to a particular activity (such as a sport) ▪ We visited the Basketball *Hall of Fame*.; *also* : the group of people who are honored in such a place ▪ He was elected as a member of the Baseball *Hall of Fame*.
– **Hall of Fam•er** /ˌhɑːlәˈfeɪmɑә/ *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] ▪ *Hall of Famers* [=members of the Hall of Fame] will be at the event to sign autographs.

hal•lowed /ˈhæloʊd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : holy or blessed ▪ The church stands on *hallowed* ground.
2 : highly respected ▪ *hallowed* customs/traditions

Hal•low•een /ˌhælәˈwiːn, ˌhɑːlәˈwiːn/ *noun, pl* **-eens** [*count, noncount*] : the night of October 31 when children dress up as ghosts, witches, monsters, etc., and go to houses to ask for candy — compare TRICK OR TREAT

hal•lu•ci•nate /hәˈluːsәˌneɪt/ *verb* **-nates**; **-nat•ed**; **-nating** : to see or sense something or someone that is not really there : to have hallucinations [*no obj*] The patient may *hallucinate* if she has a fever. [+ *obj*] His thirst caused him to *hallucinate* (that there was) an oasis in the desert.

hal•lu•ci•na•tion /hәˌluːsәˈneɪʃәn/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*] : something (such as an image, a sound, or a smell) that seems real but does not really exist and that is usually caused by mental illness or the effect of a drug ▪ He could not tell if what he was seeing was real or if it was a *hallucination*. ▪ He has been having *hallucinations* due to the medication.
– **hal•lu•ci•na•to•ry** /hәˈluːsәnәˌtori, *Brit* hәˈluːsәnәtri/ *adj* ▪ *hallucinatory* drugs [=drugs that cause hallucinations] ▪ *hallucinatory* images

hal•lu•ci•no•gen /hәˈluːsәnәʤәn/ *noun, pl* **-gens** [*count*] : a substance (such as a drug) that causes people to see or sense things that are not real : a substance that causes hallucinations
– **hal•lu•ci•no•gen•ic** /hәˌluːsәnәˈʤɛnɪk/ *adj* ▪ *hallucinogenic* drugs

hall•way /ˈhɑːlˌweɪ/ *noun, pl* **-ways** [*count*]
1 : HALL 1 ▪ Her office is at the end of the *hallway*.
2 : HALL 2 ▪ I'll meet you in the front *hallway*.

ha•lo /ˈheɪloʊ/ *noun, pl* **-los** *or* **-loes** [*count*]
1 : a circle of light that is shown in a religious painting, drawing, etc., around the head of a holy figure (such as an angel, saint, or god) — often used figuratively ▪ the child's *halo* of golden curls ▪ The scandal has tarnished the candidate's *halo*. [=has damaged his reputation as a morally good person]

H

2 : a bright circle seen around the sun or the moon

[1]halt /ˈhɑːlt/ *verb* **halts; halt•ed; halt•ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to stop (something or someone) from moving or continuing ▪ The project had to be *halted* due to lack of funds. ▪ They voted to *halt* expansion of the shopping mall. ▪ The strike *halted* subways and buses.

2 [*no obj*] : to stop moving or happening ▪ The troops *halted* outside the city. ▪ The fighting *halted* briefly. ▪ The project *halted* when funding ran out. ▪ The guard shouted, "*Halt*! Who goes there?"

[2]halt *noun, pl* **halts**

1 [*singular*] : the stopping or ending of movement, progress, or action ▪ The contract ***brought a halt to*** [=*ended*] the strike. ▪ They ***put a halt to*** the rumors. ▪ The chairman ***called a halt to*** [=*stopped*] the proceedings. ▪ The car skidded/slowed ***to a halt*** ▪ The project ***came to a (grinding) halt*** = The project ***ground to a halt*** [=the project stopped completely] ▪ The project came to a ***screeching/crashing halt*** [=the project stopped suddenly and completely]

2 [*count*] *Brit* : a small railroad stop at which there is no station

hal•ter /ˈhɑːltɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*]

1 : a set of straps placed around a horse's head so that the horse can be led or tied

2 : a piece of clothing worn on a woman's upper body that is held in place by straps around the neck and back and that leaves the back, arms, and shoulders bare — called also *halter top*; see color picture on page C14

halting /ˈhɑːltɪŋ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : stopping often because of not being sure about what to say or do : not steady ▪ She answered in a *halting* voice. ▪ The baby took a few *halting* steps. ▪ Progress in the negotiations has been *halting*.
– **halt•ing•ly** *adv*

halve /ˈhæv, *Brit* ˈhɑːv/ *verb* **halves; halved; halv•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to divide (something) into two equal parts : to divide (something) into halves ▪ He *halved* the sandwich.

2 : to reduce (something) to one half of the original amount or size ▪ The store is *halving* the price of many summer items.

halves *plural of* [1]HALF

[1]ham /ˈhæm/ *noun, pl* **hams**

1 : meat from the leg of a hog that is often prepared by smoking or salting [*noncount*] a piece/slice of *ham* ▪ We're having *ham* for dinner. ▪ a *ham* sandwich [*count*] a delicious *ham*

2 [*count*] *informal* **a** *disapproving* : a bad actor who performs in an exaggerated way ▪ He was once a fine actor, but now he's just an old *ham*. ▪ a *ham* actor **b** : someone who enjoys performing and who tends to behave in an exaggerated or playful way when people are watching ▪ Cameras bring out the *ham* in her.

3 [*count*] : someone who operates an amateur radio station — often used before another noun ▪ *ham* radio ▪ a *ham* radio operator

[2]ham *verb* **hammed; ham•ming**

ham it up *informal* : to act or behave in an exaggerated or playful way ▪ She likes to *ham it up* for the camera.

ham•burg /ˈhæmˌbɚg/ *noun, pl* **-burgs** [*count*] *US, informal* : HAMBURGER

ham•burg•er /ˈhæmˌbɚgɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers**

1 [*count*] : a flat, usually round cake of finely chopped beef that is cooked and served usually in a roll or bun ▪ They served hot dogs and *hamburgers* at the cookout.

2 [*noncount*] : beef that has been cut into very small pieces : ground beef ▪ Add the cooked *hamburger* to the sauce. — called also (*Brit*) *mince*

ham–fist•ed /ˈhæmˌfɪstəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : awkward or clumsy : HAM-HANDED ▪ a *ham-fisted* performance

ham–hand•ed /ˈhæmˌhændəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : awkward or clumsy ▪ The actress gave a *ham-handed* performance. ▪ a *ham-handed* attempt at humor ▪ The apology was rather *ham-handed*.

ham•let /ˈhæmlət/ *noun, pl* **-lets** [*count*] : a small village

[1]ham•mer /ˈhæmɚ/ *noun, pl* **-mers**

1 [*count*] **a** : a tool that has a heavy metal head attached to a handle and that is used for hitting nails or breaking things apart — see picture at CARPENTRY; see also SLEDGEHAMMER **b** : a similar tool made usually of wood and used especially for hitting a surface to make a loud noise ▪ an auctioneer's *hammer*

2 [*count*] : the part of a gun that strikes a charge causing the gun to shoot

3 [*count*] : a piece inside a piano that strikes a string to produce a sound

4 [*count*] : a stick that is shaped like a hammer and that is used to play a musical instrument

5 a [*count*] : a heavy metal ball with a flexible handle that people throw as a sport **b *the hammer*** : an event in which people compete by throwing a hammer ▪ He won a gold medal in *the hammer*. — called also *the hammer throw*

hammer and tongs : in a very forceful and energetic way ▪ Our neighbors were arguing again last night. They were ***going at it hammer and tongs***.

under the hammer — used to describe something that is being sold at an auction ▪ Some valuable paintings ***went/came under the hammer*** today.

[2]hammer *verb* **-mers; -mered; -mer•ing**

1 a : to force (something) into a particular place or shape by hitting it with a hammer [+ *obj*] He *hammered* the dent out of the fender. ▪ I *hammered* [=*drove*] the nails into the wall. ▪ The copper was *hammered* [=*pounded*] into a flat sheet. [*no obj*] The carpenters were *hammering* all afternoon. **b** [+ *obj*] : to attach (something) with a hammer and nails ▪ The workers are *hammering* the studs to the frame.

2 *informal* **a** [+ *obj*] : to hit (something or someone) in a very forceful way ▪ The batter *hammered* the ball over the fence. ▪ Someone tried to *hammer* him over the head with a club. ▪ Many towns were *hammered* by the hurricane. **b** : to hit (something) hard and repeatedly [+ *obj*] The typist's fingers were *hammering* the keys. ▪ He was *hammering* [=*pounding, banging*] the door with his fists. [*no obj*] He was *hammering* at/on the door. ▪ The rain *hammered* down on the roof. **c** [*no obj*] : to beat very quickly and forcefully ▪ My heart was *hammering*. [=*pounding*]

3 [+ *obj*] *informal* : to defeat (an opponent) very easily ▪ The home team was *hammered* 9–0.

4 [+ *obj*] *informal* : to harm or criticize (someone or something) severely — often used as *(be) hammered* ▪ Local businesses are *being hammered* by the new shopping mall. ▪ He is *being hammered* by his political opponents for his failure to cut taxes.

5 [*no obj*] : to keep talking about something or trying to do something — usually + *at* ▪ He kept *hammering at* the need for tax relief throughout his speech. — often + *away* ▪ I know we can solve this problem if we just keep *hammering away* (*at* it).

hammer into [*phrasal verb*] ***hammer (something) into (someone)*** : to force (something) to be learned very well by (someone) by repeating it again and again ▪ They are constantly trying to *hammer* good manners *into* their children. ▪ She *hammered* it *into* me that I could succeed.

hammer out [*phrasal verb*] ***hammer out (something) or hammer (something) out*** : to produce (something, such as an agreement) by a lot of discussion or argument ▪ After hours of discussion, we finally *hammered out* an agreement/deal. ▪ We'll *hammer* the details *out* later.

hammered *adj, not used before a noun* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *slang* : very drunk ▪ They got/were *hammered* last night.

ham•mer•ing /ˈhæmərɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-ings**

1 : the sound made when something is being hit by a hammer, by rain, etc. [*noncount*] Loud *hammering* was coming from next door. ▪ We could hear the *hammering* of the rain on the roof. [*singular*] We could hear a loud *hammering* from next door.

2 [*singular*] *informal* — used to say that someone or something has been very forcefully hit, damaged, criticized, etc. ▪ The old church ***got/took quite a hammering*** [=was badly damaged] during the storm. ▪ The governor *took a hammering* from the media for his decision. ▪ Our team *got/took quite a hammering* [=was badly beaten] in yesterday's game.

hammer throw *noun*

the hammer throw : [1]HAMMER 5b

ham•mock /ˈhæmək/ *noun, pl* **-mocks** [*count*] : a type of bed that consists of a piece of cloth hung between two trees, poles, etc.



hammock

[1]ham•per /ˈhæmpɚ/ *verb* **-pers; -pered; -per•ing** [+ *obj*] : to slow the movement, progress, or action of (someone or something) ▪ Bad weather could *hamper* our search efforts. = Bad weather

could *hamper* us in our search efforts. ▪ The project was *hampered* by budget restraints. ▪ Construction is *hampering* traffic on the highway.

²hamper *noun, pl* **-pers** [*count*] : a large basket usually with a cover: such as **a** : a basket for food ▪ a picnic *hamper* **b** *US* : a basket for holding dirty clothes until they can be washed ▪ a clothes *hamper* — see picture at BATHROOM

ham•ster /ˈhæmstɚ/ *noun, pl* **-sters** [*count*] : a small animal that is often kept as a pet

¹ham•string /ˈhæmˌstrɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-strings** [*count*]
1 : a tendon at the back of a person's knee
2 : a muscle at the back of a person's upper leg ▪ This exercise will strengthen your *hamstrings*. = This exercise will strengthen your *hamstring* muscles.

²hamstring *verb* **-strings**; **-strung** /-ˌstrʌŋ/; **-string•ing** [+ *obj*] : to damage or ruin the force or effectiveness of (something or someone) ▪ The mayor tried to *hamstring* our efforts by cutting the budget. ▪ The company claims it is being *hamstrung* by government regulations.

¹hand /ˈhænd/ *noun, pl* **hands**
1 [*count*] **a** : the body part at the end of your arm that includes your fingers and thumb ▪ These gloves will keep your *hands* warm. ▪ She put her *hands* over her eyes. ▪ He sat quietly with his *hands* folded in his lap. **b** — used in some phrases to refer to a person ▪ I'm afraid this job will need ***more than one pair of hands*** [=more than one person] ▪ It's a big job, but ***many hands make light work*** [=if many people work on it, it will be easier to do]
2 *hands* [*plural*] : power, possession, or control ▪ The maps were in the *hands* of the enemy. [=the enemy had the maps] ▪ The land between these mountains remains in private *hands*. [=is privately owned]
3 [*singular*] : physical help : assistance in doing something ▪ Do you need a *hand*? ▪ I'll be happy to ***lend a hand*** [=*help*] — often + *with* ▪ Can you ***give/lend me a hand with*** [=help me with] this suitcase? ▪ Let me *give you a hand with* that. — see also HELPING HAND
4 [*count*] : a long, thin part that points to a number on a clock or dial ▪ Many clocks have a second *hand*, a minute *hand*, and an hour *hand*.
5 [*noncount*] *somewhat old-fashioned* : a promise of marriage ▪ He asked for her *hand* (in marriage). [=he asked her to marry him] ▪ She offered her *hand* in marriage to him. [=she said that she would marry him] ▪ She gave him her *hand* in marriage. [=she married him]
6 [*singular*] : the act of hitting your hands together to show approval, appreciation, etc. : the act of applauding ▪ Let's give him a big *hand*! [=a big round of applause]
7 [*count*] **a** : the cards that are held by a player in a card game ▪ He studied his *hand* before deciding how much to bet. — often used figuratively ▪ The program is designed to help children who have been dealt a cruel *hand* in life. [=children who have suffered or had bad things happen to them] ▪ Even her critics say her chances of succeeding are great since she has been dealt such a strong *hand*. [=she is in a strong position] — see also *overplay your hand* at OVERPLAY **b** : a single round of play in a card game ▪ He lost the first *hand* but won the next two.
8 [*count*] **a** : a hired worker ▪ factory *hands* ▪ The cowboys were simply ***hired hands*** with no ownership rights. — see also FARMHAND, OLD HAND, STAGEHAND **b** : a member of a ship's crew — usually plural ▪ All *hands* on deck!
9 [*count*] : someone who performs or produces something (such as a work of art) — usually singular ▪ These two portraits are by the same *hand*. [=by the same artist]
10 [*singular*] : a particular way or style of doing or handling something ▪ The *hand* of a master is evident in these sculptures. [=these sculptures were obviously done by a very skillful artist] ▪ He runs the business with a firm *hand*. ▪ a cook who has a ***heavy hand*** with the salt [=who uses too much salt] — see also HEAVY-HANDED
11 [*singular*] *old-fashioned* : the way a person's writing looks : a type of handwriting ▪ a note written in an elegant *hand*
12 [*count*] : a unit of measure equal to 4 inches (about 10.16 centimeters) and used especially to measure the height of horses ▪ a horse that is 15 *hands* high
a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush see BIRD
a show of hands see ²SHOW
at first hand see ¹FIRST
at hand : close in distance or time ▪ She likes to keep the phone (close) *at hand*. ▪ We need to address the problem *at hand* [=the particular problem we are dealing with] and not argue about these other issues.
at the hand(s) of : by or through the action of (someone or something) ▪ They were treated badly *at the hands of* the prison guards. ▪ The people had suffered *at the hands of* a cruel dictator.
by hand **1** : with the hands ▪ The stone was carved *by hand*. **2** : from one person directly to another ▪ I delivered the document to his office *by hand*.
by the hand : by holding someone's hand ▪ I took him *by the hand* and led him through the crowd. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ You can't expect me to lead you *by the hand* through every difficult situation.
by your own hand : by your own actions ▪ She ***died by her own hand*** [=she killed herself; she committed suicide]
change hands see ¹CHANGE
eat out of someone's hand see EAT
fall into the hands of see ¹FALL
fall into the wrong hands see ¹FALL
force someone's hand see ²FORCE
get your hands dirty see ¹DIRTY
get/lay your hands on : to find, get, or control (someone or something) ▪ I'm still trying to *lay my hands on* my car keys. ▪ He couldn't wait to *get his hands on* her money. ▪ Wait until I *get my hands on* you. [=you will be in trouble when I catch you]
give your right hand see ¹GIVE
good with your hands : skillful at things that require the use of your hands ▪ He's always been *good with his hands*.
grease the hand of see ²GREASE
hand and foot **1** — used to describe someone whose hands and feet are tied to prevent escape or movement ▪ The prisoner was bound/tied *hand and foot*. **2** ✧ To ***wait on someone hand and foot*** is to provide everything that someone needs or wants. ▪ I can't stand the way they *wait on her hand and foot*!
hand in glove : very closely ▪ We are working *hand in glove* with the police to recover the stolen property.
hand in hand **1** : holding hands : grasping another person's hand ▪ They walked on the beach *hand in hand*. **2** — used to say that two people or things are very closely connected or related ▪ In a film, the images and sounds go *hand in hand*. ▪ The chef works *hand in hand* [=very closely] with a nutritionist.
hand over fist *informal* — used to say that someone is earning or losing money very quickly or in large amounts ▪ They were making/earning money *hand over fist*.
hands are tied ✧ If ***your hands are tied*** you cannot do anything about a situation because you do not have the power to act freely. ▪ I'd like to help you, but my *hands are tied*. ▪ The judge says her *hands are tied* because the law requires a harsh sentence in such cases.
hands off — used as a command to tell someone not to touch something ▪ *Hands off* my property! ▪ "Those cookies look delicious." "*Hands off*! We're saving them for later."
hand to mouth : without much money : in poverty ▪ They have been living *hand to mouth* since he lost his job. = It's been *hand to mouth* since he lost his job. — see also HAND-TO-MOUTH
hat in hand (*US*) *or Brit* ***cap in hand*** : asking or begging for something in a respectful way ▪ He came to me, *hat in hand*, asking if I could get him a job at the company.
have a hand in : to be involved in (something) ▪ She *had a hand in* designing the new highway. ▪ Did he *have a hand in* this decision?
have someone in the palm of your hand see ¹PALM
have your hands full : to be very busy ▪ She'll *have her hands full* with the new baby.
heavy on your hands see ²HEAVY
hold hands *or* ***hold someone's hand*** **1** : to hold a person's hand in one of your hands for a period of time ▪ two people *holding hands* ▪ He *held hands* with his daughter. ▪ He *held her hand* as they walked. **2** : to guide someone through a process by carefully explaining each step ▪ I don't need you to *hold my hand*.
in good/safe hands : being taken care of very well ▪ With her in charge, the office is *in good hands*. [=she will do the job well] ▪ You're *in safe hands* with us. [=you will be safe with us]
in hand **1** : in your possession or control ▪ We started our hike with compass and map *in hand*. ▪ He has the situation ***well in hand*** [=he is in control of the situation] ✧ To ***take someone in hand*** is to begin to guide or direct someone who has been behaving badly. ▪ You need someone to *take*

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you in hand, young lady, and show you how to behave! **2** *chiefly Brit* : available for use ▪ If we work at this rate we'll have a month *in hand* before our deadline is up!

join hands see JOIN

keep your hand in *informal* : to continue to be involved in some activity ▪ He retired several years ago, but he still comes by the office occasionally because he likes to *keep his hand in* (the business).

keep/get your hands off (of) : to not touch (something) ▪ *Keep your hands off* the cookies! We're saving them for later. — often used figuratively ▪ The military is asking lawmakers to *keep their hands off* [=not change] the defense budget.

know (something) like the back of your hand see ¹KNOW

lay a hand on : to touch or harm (someone) ▪ He claims that he never *laid a hand on* her.

off your hands : no longer in your possession or no longer your responsibility ▪ If you don't want those golf clubs anymore, I'll be glad to take them *off your hands*. [=I'll be glad to take them] ▪ She's trying to find a way to get some of that extra work *off her hands*.

on hand **1** : available for use ▪ We have plenty of water *on hand*. **2** : present and available to do something ▪ Five musicians were *on hand* to accompany her. ▪ A priest was *on hand* to console them.

on the one hand, on the other hand — used to introduce statements that describe two different or opposite ideas, people, etc. ▪ *On the one hand*, I think the price is fair, but *on the other* (*hand*), I really can't afford to spend that much money. ▪ He's a good guy. His brother, *on the other hand*, is a very selfish man.

on your hands — used to say that you have something or are responsible for something ▪ With all that extra work *on her hands* she'll need all the help she can get. ▪ Once this project is over she should have some ***time on her hands***. [=free time] — see also *blood on your hands* at BLOOD

on your hands and knees : with your hands and knees on the ground : in a crawling position ▪ She went down *on her hands and knees*.

out of hand **1** : very quickly without serious thought ▪ He rejected the plan *out of hand*. ▪ Suggestions that the hearing should be delayed were dismissed *out of hand*. **2** : not controlled ▪ The kids were (getting) *out of hand*. [=were behaving in a wild and uncontrolled way] ▪ He warns that technology is getting *out of hand*.

out of your hands — used to say that you cannot control something ▪ The decision is *out of my hands*.

play into someone's hands see ¹PLAY

putty in your hands see ¹PUTTY

safe pair of hands *Brit* : someone who can be trusted with responsibility or a job ▪ The next leader of the party should be a *safe pair of hands*.

sit on your hands see ¹SIT

take (something) into your (own) hands : to take control of something ▪ The judge had no sympathy for people who insisted on *taking the law into their own hands*. [=trying to punish criminals themselves instead of allowing the legal system to do it] ▪ After months of waiting for something to happen, he decided to *take matters into his own hands*.

to hand : available for use ▪ I don't have all the latest data (immediately) *to hand*.

try your hand : to try to do something — usually + *at* ▪ She wanted to *try her hand at* photography.

turn your hand to : to begin doing (something) usually in a skillful way : to start (a new activity, field of study, etc.) ▪ an actress who has *turned her hand to* directing ▪ After he left publishing, he *turned his hand to* law.

wash your hands of see ¹WASH

with your bare hands : using only your hands and no tools or weapons ▪ He tried to kill me *with his bare hands*.

– see also FIRSTHAND, HANDS DOWN, SECONDHAND, SLEIGHT OF HAND, UPPER HAND

²hand *verb* **hands**; **hand•ed**; **hand•ing** [+ *obj*] : to give (something) to someone using your hands ▪ He *handed* her a letter. = He *handed* a letter to her. ▪ *Hand* me that picture.

hand back [*phrasal verb*] ***hand (something) back*** *or* ***hand back (something)*** : to return (something) by handing it to someone ▪ He *handed* the letter *back* (to her) without reading it. ▪ The clerk *handed back* my credit card.

hand down [*phrasal verb*] ***hand (something) down*** *or* ***hand down (something)*** **1** : to pass (something) from a person who is older (such as a parent) to a person who is younger (such as a child) ▪ She will *hand* the diamond ring *down* to her niece. ▪ The farm was *handed down* from generation to generation. **2** *chiefly US, law* : to form and express (a decision or opinion) in writing ▪ The Supreme Court has *handed down* its decision.

hand in [*phrasal verb*] ***hand (something) in*** *or* ***hand in (something)*** : to give (something) to a person who will review or accept it ▪ Students should *hand* their papers *in* on Thursday. ▪ He *handed in* his resignation.

hand it to *informal* : to give credit to (someone) for doing something ▪ I've got to *hand it to* you. You did a great job planning the party.

hand off [*phrasal verb*] ***hand (something) off*** *or* ***hand off (something)*** *US* : to give (something) to another person ▪ (*American football*) The quarterback *handed off* the ball to the halfback. ▪ She *handed* the job *off* to her assistant.

hand on [*phrasal verb*] ***hand (something) on*** *or* ***hand on (something)*** *formal* : to pass (something) from one person to another ▪ These stories have been *handed on* from generation to generation.

hand out [*phrasal verb*] ***hand (something) out*** *or* ***hand out (something)*** : to give (something) to several or many people ▪ They will *hand out* [=*distribute*] copies of the newsletter today. ▪ He's always *handing out* advice to the people he works with. ▪ She *handed* flyers *out* at the grocery store.

hand over [*phrasal verb*] ***hand (someone or something) over*** *or* ***hand over (someone or something)*** : to give up control or possession of (something or someone) ▪ They demanded that he *hand* the documents *over* to them. ▪ They agreed to *hand over* their hostages.

hand•bag /ˈhændˌbæg/ *noun, pl* **-bags** [*count*] : a woman's small bag or purse used for carrying personal things and money — see picture at BAG

hand baggage *noun* [*noncount*] : HAND LUGGAGE

hand•ball /ˈhændˌbɑːl/ *noun, pl* **-balls**
1 [*noncount*] : a game for two or four players who use their hands to hit a ball against a wall
2 [*count*] : the ball used in handball

hand•bas•ket /ˈhændˌbæskət/ *noun*
go to hell in a handbasket *US, informal* : to become completely ruined ▪ He's convinced that the country is *going to hell in a handbasket*.

hand•bill /ˈhændˌbɪl/ *noun, pl* **-bills** [*count*] *somewhat old-fashioned* : a small printed advertisement or announcement that is given out to many people by hand

hand•book /ˈhændˌbʊk/ *noun, pl* **-books** [*count*] : a small book that gives useful information about a particular subject ▪ a *handbook* of English ▪ a writer's *handbook*

hand brake *noun, pl* ~ **brakes** [*count*]
1 : a brake that is operated by pushing or pulling a lever with your hand
2 : PARKING BRAKE

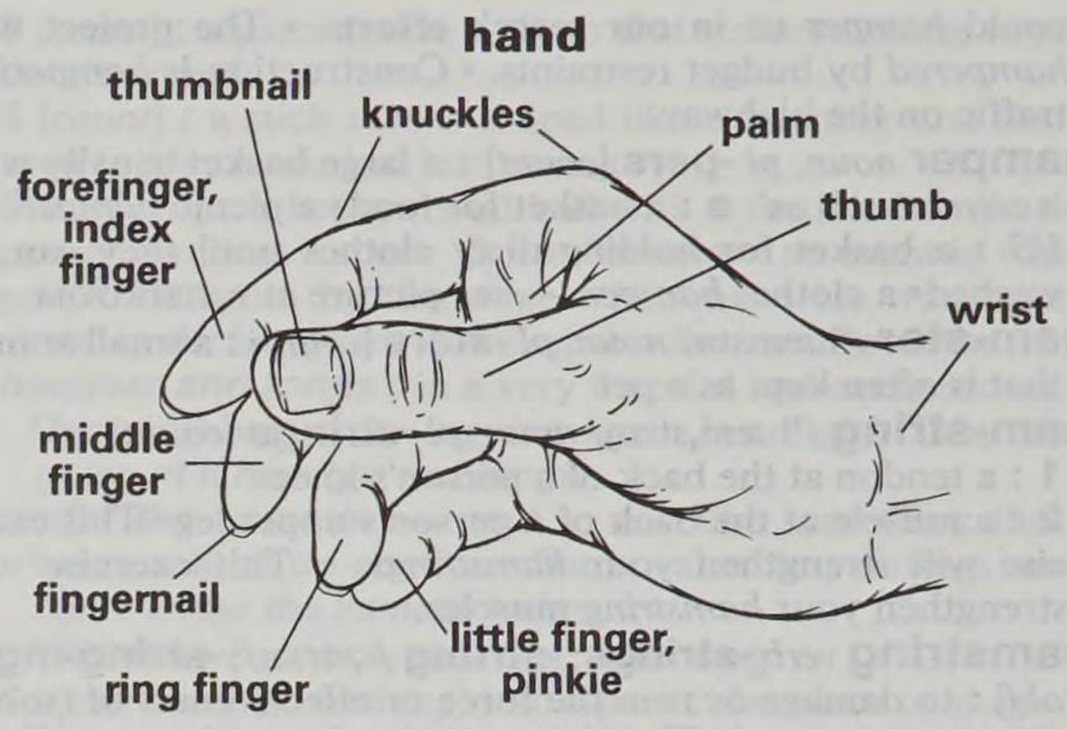
¹hand•craft /ˈhændˌkræft, *Brit* ˈhændˌkrɑːft/ *verb* **-crafts**; **-craft•ed**; **-craft•ing** [+ *obj*] : to make (something) by using your hands ▪ She *handcrafted* a set of bowls out of red clay.
– **handcrafted** *adj* ▪ a *handcrafted* [=*handmade*] set of bowls ▪ a beautiful *handcrafted* bed

²handcraft *noun, pl* **-crafts** [*count*] : HANDICRAFT

hand•cuff /ˈhændˌkʌf/ *verb* **-cuffs**; **-cuffed**; **-cuf•fing** [+ *obj*] : to put handcuffs on (someone) ▪ *handcuff* a prisoner

hand•cuffs /ˈhændˌkʌfs/ *noun* [*plural*] : a set of two metal rings that are joined together and locked around a person's wrists ▪ Police put *handcuffs* on the prisoner.

hand–eye coordination *noun* [*noncount*] : the way that your hands and sight work together so you are able to do things that require speed and accuracy (such as catching or



hitting a ball) ▪ **an athlete with good *hand-eye coordination***

hand•ful /ˈhændˌfʊl/ *noun, pl* **-fuls**
1 [*count*] : an amount that you can hold in your hand ▪ **The children collected seashells by the *handful*.** — often + *of* ▪ **a *handful of* strawberries**
2 [*singular*] : a small amount or number — often + *of* ▪ **Only a *handful of* people showed up for the lecture.**
3 [*singular*] *informal* : someone or something that is difficult to control ▪ **Our dog is a real *handful*.**

hand•gun /ˈhændˌgʌn/ *noun, pl* **-guns** [*count*] : a small gun (such as a revolver or a pistol) designed to be held and shot with one hand

[1]hand•held /ˈhændˌhɛld/ *adj, always used before a noun* : designed to be used while being held in your hands ▪ **a *handheld* movie camera**

[2]handheld *noun, pl* **-helds** [*count*] : a small electronic device or computer that fits in your hand

hand•hold /ˈhændˌhoʊld/ *noun, pl* **-holds** [*count*] : a place or part on a surface that you can hold on to with your hand while climbing a cliff, mountain, etc.

hand–hold•ing /ˈhændˌhoʊldɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : patient attention, support, or instruction ▪ **New computer users often require a good deal of *hand-holding*.** — see also *hold hands* at [1]HAND

[1]hand•i•cap /ˈhændiˌkæp/ *noun, pl* **-caps** [*count*]
1 *sometimes offensive* : a physical or mental condition that may limit what a person can do : a physical or mental disability ▪ **a mental/physical *handicap*** ✧ Some people consider the word *handicap* offensive in this sense and prefer the word *disability*.
2 : a problem, situation, or event that makes progress or success difficult ▪ **His shyness was a *handicap* in his job.**
3 *golf* : a number that shows a golfer's level of skill and that is used to allow golfers of different abilities to compete with each other ▪ **She's been practicing a lot and her *handicap* has gone down from 18 to 12.**
4 : a horse race in which some horses are required to carry more weight so that all the horses in the race will have an equal chance of winning

[2]handicap *verb* **-caps; -capped; -cap•ping** [+ *obj*]
1 : to make success or progress difficult for (someone) — usually used as *(be) handicapped* ▪ **He *was handicapped* by his extreme shyness.**
2 *US* : to make a judgment about the likely winner of a race or contest ▪ ***handicap* the horses in a race = *handicap* a race** ▪ **It's very hard to *handicap* the election at this point.**
– **hand•i•cap•per** /ˈhændiˌkæpɚ/ *noun, pl* **-pers** [*count*]

hand•i•capped /ˈhændɪˌkæpt/ *adj*
1 [*more ~; most ~*] *sometimes offensive* : having a physical or mental condition that limits what a person can do : having a handicap ▪ **He has been *handicapped* since his motorcycle accident.** ▪ **physically/mentally *handicapped*** ✧ Some people consider the word *handicapped* offensive in this sense and prefer *disabled*.
2 : designed or reserved for disabled people ▪ ***handicapped* parking spaces** ▪ **a *handicapped* entrance**

hand•i•craft /ˈhændɪˌkræft, *Brit* ˈhændɪˌkrɑːft/ *noun, pl* **-crafts** [*count*]
1 : an activity that involves making something in a skillful way by using your hands ▪ **Her favorite *handicraft* is sewing.**
2 : an object made by skillful use of your hands — usually plural ▪ **The street is lined with vendors selling *handicrafts*.** — called also *handcraft*

hand•i•ly /ˈhændəli/ *adv* [*more ~; most ~*] : without trouble : very easily ▪ **He won the card game *handily*.**

hand•i•work /ˈhændɪˌwɚk/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : work that is done by using your hands ▪ **They admired the potter's beautiful *handiwork*.**
2 : something done by a particular person or group ▪ **I think all of these problems are her *handiwork*.**

hand•ker•chief /ˈhæŋkɚʧəf/ *noun, pl* **-chiefs** *also* **-chieves** /ˈhæŋkɚʧəfs/ [*count*] : a small cloth used for wiping your face, nose, or eyes — called also (*informal*) *hankie*

[1]han•dle /ˈhændl̩/ *noun, pl* **han•dles** [*count*]
1 : a part of something that is designed to be held by your hand ▪ **He held the shovel by the/its *handle*.** ▪ **The *handles* on the bag were torn.** ▪ **a door *handle* [=the part that you turn with your hand to open a door]** — see picture at BAG; see also LOVE HANDLES
2 *slang* : [1]NICKNAME ▪ **What's your *handle*?**
fly off the handle see [1]FLY
get/have a handle on *informal* : to understand (something) ▪ I can't quite *get a handle on* the way this machine works. ▪ It seemed like she *had a* good *handle on* the situation. [=she understood the situation and was able to deal with it]
– **han•dled** /ˈhændl̩d/ *adj* — usually used in combination ▪ a wooden-*handled* basket

[2]handle *verb* **handles; han•dled; han•dling**
1 [+ *obj*] **a** : to touch, feel, hold, or move (something) with your hand ▪ *Handle* the fruit carefully or it will bruise. ▪ The baked potatoes were too hot to *handle* with our bare hands. **b** : to manage or control (something) with your hands ▪ He knows how to *handle* a motorcycle. ▪ He *handles* his motorcycle well. ▪ She learned how to *handle* a weapon.
2 [+ *obj*] : to do the work required for (something) ▪ She *handles* all the bookkeeping. ▪ The system is *handled* by the main computer. ▪ She's proven that she can *handle* anything. ▪ The airport *handles* both passenger and cargo flights.
3 [+ *obj*] : to deal with (a person, situation, etc.) successfully ▪ She couldn't *handle* being away from her children for more than a couple of days. ▪ He's having a hard time *handling* the pressure of his new job. ▪ A good politician knows how to *handle* the press. ▪ Do you think he can *handle* the truth?
4 [+ *obj*] : to express thoughts about (something) in a piece of music, writing, or art ▪ The class discussed how the author *handled* [=*dealt with*] the theme of loneliness in the novel.
5 [+ *obj*] : to be involved with the buying or selling of (something) ▪ They own a store that *handles* rugs. ▪ He was arrested for *handling* stolen goods.
6 [*no obj*] — used to describe how easy or difficult it is to control a vehicle ▪ I'm looking for a car that *handles* well in the snow. ▪ "How does his motorcycle *handle*?" "It *handles* very well."
handle yourself : to behave ▪ She closely watched how the boys *handled themselves* at the ceremony. ▪ She *handled herself* well under very difficult circumstances. — see also HANDLING

han•dle•bar /ˈhændl̩ˌbɑɚ/ *noun, pl* **-bars** [*count*] : a straight or bent bar with a handle at each end that is used to steer a bicycle, motorcycle, etc. — usually plural ▪ Keep both hands on the *handlebars*. — see picture at BICYCLE

handlebar mustache *noun, pl ~* **-taches** [*count*] : a thick, long mustache that curves upward at the ends

han•dler /ˈhændl̩ɚ/ *noun, pl* **-dlers** [*count*]
1 : a person who trains or controls an animal ▪ a dog *handler* and breeder
2 : a person who carries or handles something ▪ a baggage *handler* ▪ food *handlers*
3 *chiefly US* : a person who guides, helps, or manages a political or public figure ▪ a politician and his *handlers*

han•dling /ˈhændlɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 a : the act of touching, feeling, holding, or moving something ▪ These items require careful *handling*. **b** : the way that someone deals with a person, event, situation, etc. — often + *of* ▪ His *handling of* the situation could not have been worse. ▪ The media's *handling of* the tragedy has been criticized.
2 : the act or process of packing and shipping something to someone (such as a customer) ▪ There are additional charges for shipping and *handling*.
3 : the way a vehicle moves when it is driven or ridden ▪ The car's *handling* was smooth.

hand luggage *noun* [*noncount*] : small pieces of luggage that a passenger can carry onto an airplane ▪ You are entitled to one piece of *hand luggage* per flight.

hand•made /ˈhændˈmeɪd/ *adj* : made with the hands or by using hand tools ▪ a *handmade* rug ▪ *handmade* furniture

hand•maid /ˈhændˌmeɪd/ *noun, pl* **-maids** [*count*] : HANDMAIDEN

hand•maid•en /ˈhændˌmeɪdn̩/ *noun, pl* **-ens** [*count*] *somewhat old-fashioned* : a female servant or maid — usually used figuratively ▪ He feels that government has become the *handmaiden* of corporate interests. [=the government only serves corporate interests]

hand–me–down /ˈhændmiˌdaʊn/ *adj* : owned or used by someone else before you : SECONDHAND — used especially of clothing ▪ He was wearing an old, *hand-me-down* jacket. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ He has some old-fashioned, *hand-me-down* notions about the role of women.
– **hand–me–down** *noun, pl* **-downs** [*count*] ▪ Her closet was full of *hand-me-downs* from her older sisters.

hand•off /ˈhændˌɑːf/ *noun, pl* **-offs** [*count*] *American football* : an act of handing the ball to another player ▪ He fum-

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bled the ball while attempting a *handoff*. — see also *hand off* at ²HAND

hand•out /ˈhændˌaʊt/ *noun, pl* **-outs** [*count*]
1 : something (such as food, clothing, or money) that is given to someone who is poor▪ He sat on the sidewalk asking for a *handout*. ▪ The family wasn't interested in government *handouts*. — see also *hand out* at ²HAND
2 : a document that is given to people▪ The *handouts* had all the major points of his speech outlined on them. ▪ advertising *handouts*

hand•over /ˈhændˌoʊvɚ/ *noun* [*singular*] **:** the act or process of giving control of someone or something to another person, country, etc.▪ the *handover* of power from the old government to the new government — see also *hand over* at ²HAND

hand•pick /ˈhændˈpɪk/ *verb* **-picks; -picked; -pick•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to pick (something, such as a fruit) by using your hand▪ They run a farm where you can *handpick* fresh strawberries. ▪ a box of *handpicked* strawberries
2 : to choose (something or someone) carefully by yourself instead of letting someone else do it▪ The executive *handpicked* her successor.

hand puppet *noun, pl* **~ -pets** [*count*] *US* **:** a puppet that fits over your hand like a glove and is moved by the fingers and hand of its wearer — called also (*Brit*) *glove puppet*

hand•rail /ˈhændˌreɪl/ *noun, pl* **-rails** [*count*] **:** a narrow bar placed on the side of a walkway or a flight of stairs that you can hold as you walk

hand•saw /ˈhændˌsɑ:/ *noun, pl* **-saws** [*count*] **:** a saw designed to be used with one hand

hands down /ˈhændzˈdaʊn/ *adv, informal*
1 : without much effort : very easily▪ She could win any race *hands down*.
2 : without any doubt : DEFINITELY▪ It's *hands down* the best movie of the year.
– hands–down /ˈhændzˌdaʊn/ *adj, informal*▪ the *hands-down* favorite to win

hand•set /ˈhændˌsɛt/ *noun, pl* **-sets** [*count*] **:** the part of a telephone that you hold near your ear and mouth for listening and speaking — see picture at TELEPHONE

hands–free *adj, always used before a noun* **:** designed to be used without being held in your hands▪ a *hands-free* cell phone

hand•shake /ˈhændˌʃeɪk/ *noun, pl* **-shakes** [*count*] **:** the act of grasping someone's right hand with your right hand and moving it up and down : the act of shaking hands▪ She greeted him with a *handshake*. ; *also* **:** the manner in which a person shakes hands▪ He has a firm/weak *handshake*. ✧ A handshake is often the way people greet each other, but it is also used when people part from each other or when they have made an agreement.▪ The deal was sealed with a *handshake*. — see also GOLDEN HANDSHAKE

hands–off /ˈhændzˈɑ:f/ *adj, always used before a noun* **:** allowing people to do what they want to do without bothering or stopping them▪ His *hands-off* approach to teaching allows students to choose the focus of their studies.

hand•some /ˈhænsəm/ *adj* **hand•som•er; -est** [*also more ~; most ~*]
1 : pleasing to look at : ATTRACTIVE▪ It was a *handsome* house situated on a large lot. ▪ The book includes many *handsome* illustrations. ; *especially, of a person* **:** having a pleasing appearance that causes romantic or sexual feelings in someone▪ a *handsome* face ▪ I predict that someone tall, dark, and *handsome* is going to come into your life. ✧ Men are more frequently described as *handsome* than women.
synonyms see BEAUTIFUL
2 *always used before a noun* **:** large in size or amount▪ He inherited a *handsome* fortune. ▪ He made a *handsome* profit on the sale of the house. ▪ They made *handsome* [=*generous*] contributions to charity.
3 *always used before a noun* **:** done or achieved in an impressive way▪ The book is a *handsome* tribute to a great poet. ▪ (*chiefly Brit*) She won a *handsome* victory in the election.
– hand•some•ly *adv*▪ The book is *handsomely* illustrated with ink drawings. ▪ He was *handsomely* [=*generously*] rewarded for his loyalty. **– hand•some•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]▪ an actor known for his rugged *handsomeness*

hands–on /ˈhændzˈɑ:n/ *adj*
1 *always used before a noun* **a :** gained by actually doing something rather than learning about it from books, lectures, etc.▪ New employees are given hours of *hands-on* training. ▪ They need *hands-on* experience with the machinery. **b :** involving or allowing the use of your hands or touching with your hands▪ The children's museum is full of *hands-on* displays. ▪ *hands-on* activities
2 [*more ~; most ~*] **:** actively and personally involved in something (such as running a business)▪ He felt strongly that the staff needed a more *hands-on* manager. ▪ She's always been very *hands-on* when it comes to running the restaurant.

hand•spring /ˈhændˌsprɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-springs** [*count*] **:** a fast movement in which you jump forward or backward, land on your hands, swing your legs up and over your body, and then land on your feet▪ He did a *handspring* on the lawn.

hand•stand /ˈhændˌstænd/ *noun, pl* **-stands** [*count*] **:** the act of balancing on your hands with the body and legs straight up in the air

hand–to–hand /ˈhændtəˈhænd/ *adj, always before a noun* **:** involving physical contact between people — used to describe fighting that is done with the hands or with knives, clubs, etc., instead of guns, arrows, etc.▪ *hand-to-hand* combat

hand–to–mouth /ˈhændtəˈmaʊθ/ *adj* **:** having only enough money to survive▪ After the factories closed, many people lived a *hand-to-mouth* existence. [=many people were poor] — see also *hand to mouth* at ¹HAND

hand tool *noun, pl* **~ tools** [*count*] **:** a small tool (such as a hammer or wrench) that usually does not use electricity

hand towel *noun, pl* **~ -els** [*count*] **:** a small towel for drying your hands — see picture at BATHROOM

hand•work /ˈhændˌwɚk/ *noun* [*noncount*] **:** work done with your hands and not by a machine▪ She wore a beaded dress that required many hours of *handwork*.

hand•wo•ven /ˈhændˈwoʊvən/ *adj* **:** woven by hand : woven using a machine (called a loom) that is not powered by electricity▪ *handwoven* cloth/fabrics

hand–wring•ing /ˈhændˌrɪŋɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] *disapproving* **:** worried talk or behavior▪ There has been a lot of silly *hand-wringing* over the latest hike in interest rates.
– hand•wring•er /ˈhændˌrɪŋɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

hand•writ•ing /ˈhændˌraɪtɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-ings** [*count, noncount*] **:** the way a person's writing looks▪ Her *handwriting* is nearly impossible to read.
handwriting (is) on the wall see ¹WALL

hand•writ•ten /ˈhændˌrɪtn̩/ *adj* **:** written with a pen or pencil and not with a computer or typewriter▪ a *handwritten* note

handy /ˈhændi/ *adj* **hand•i•er; -est** [*also more ~; most ~*]
1 a : very useful or helpful▪ a *handy* cookbook/gadget ▪ a *handy* little tool ▪ The extra batteries for the flashlight ***came in handy*** [=were useful] when the electricity went off. **b :** near or close▪ He always liked to keep a dictionary *handy*. [=*on hand, nearby*] ▪ (*Brit*) My flat is ***handy for*** [=near to] the underground.
2 : clever or skillful in using your hands, doing small jobs, etc.▪ She's *handy* with a needle and thread. ▪ He's *handy* around the house.

handy•man /ˈhændiˌmæn/ *noun, pl* **-men** /-ˌmɛn/ [*count*] **:** a person (especially a man) who is skillful at doing small jobs (such as household repairs)
handyman's special *US, informal* **:** a house that is being sold at a low price because it needs many repairs

¹hang /ˈhæŋ/ *verb* **hangs; hung** /ˈhʌŋ/ *or in sense 3* **hanged; hang•ing**
1 a : to attach or place something so that it is held up without support from below [+ *obj*]He *hung* the painting on the wall. ▪ We *hung* paper lanterns from the trees. ▪ My grandmother used to *hang* the wash on a clothesline. [*no obj*] A photograph of her family *hangs* on the wall. ▪ Several of her paintings are *hanging* in the Museum of Modern Art. ▪ Your coat is *hanging* in the closet. ▪ The curtains *hang* all the way (down) to the floor. — see also HANG UP 2 (below) **b** [+ *obj*] **:** to decorate (a surface) by hanging something (such as a picture) on it — usually used as *(be) hung*▪ The walls *are hung* with paintings. [=there are paintings hanging on the walls] **c** [+ *obj*] **:** to put (wallpaper) on a wall▪ They plan to *hang* wallpaper in the hallway.
2 [*no obj*] **:** to be in a lowered position▪ He let his arm *hang* down into the water. ▪ We *hung* [=*leaned*] over the side of the boat and waved. ▪ Her hair *hung* loose/limply.
3 *past tense and past participle usually* ***hanged*** **a :** to kill (someone) by using a rope that goes around the neck and holds the person's body in the air without any support from below [+ *obj*]They will *hang* him in the county jailhouse. ▪

He was *hanged* for his crimes. • He *hanged* himself. [*no obj*] He *hanged* for his crimes. **b** *old-fashioned* — used to express surprise, anger, etc. • We need those supplies now, *hang* the cost! [=we need them no matter how much they cost] • ***I'll be hanged*** if I'll do anything to help him. [=I won't do anything to help him]

4 [*no obj*] : to float over a place or object for a long time • Storm clouds were *hanging* low overhead. • Smoke *hung* above the crowd. • The smell of perfume *hung* in the air around her.

5 [*no obj*] — used to say that a decision has not yet been made • The decision is still *hanging*. — see also HUNG JURY, HUNG PARLIAMENT

6 [*no obj*] *US, informal* : to be or stay somewhere for a period of time without doing much • We were *hanging* [=*hanging around/out*] at Suzee's.

7 [+ *obj*] *chiefly US, informal* : to make (a turn) especially while driving • *Hang* a right at the stoplight.

8 [*no obj*] *baseball, of a pitch* : to fail to curve in the desired way • a *hanging* curveball

a peg to hang something on see ¹PEG

hang around *or Brit* ***hang about/round*** [*phrasal verb*] *informal* **1 *hang around/about/round or hang around/about/round (a place)*** : to be or stay in a place for a period of time without doing much • We just *hung around* all afternoon, listening to music. • They *hung around* the theater after the play was over. **2 *hang around/about/round with (someone)*** : to spend time relaxing, talking, or doing things with (someone) • She *hangs around with* older kids. • Who does he usually *hang around with*?

hang back [*phrasal verb*] **1** : to be or stay behind others • The little girl followed the older children but *hung back* a little. **2** : to be unwilling to do something because of nervousness, fear, etc. • When there's work to be done, she doesn't *hang back*.

hang by a thread : to be in a very dangerous situation or state : to be very close to death, failure, etc. • The patient's life was *hanging by a thread*. [=the patient was very close to dying]

hang fire *chiefly Brit* : to be delayed • The project has been *hanging fire* for several years. • The decision is *hanging fire*.

hang in [*phrasal verb*] **1** *chiefly US, informal* : to keep working or trying in a difficult situation • She says she'll *hang in* until she makes the business work. • She did her best to *hang in* against some of the more experienced swimmers. — often used in the phrase ***hang in there*** • *Hang in there*, kid! Don't quit! **2 *hang in the air*** : to be incomplete or uncertain • The design of the new currency is still *hanging in the air*.

hang loose see ²LOOSE

hang on [*phrasal verb*] **1** : to keep happening or continuing • He had a terrible cold that *hung on* all spring. **2** : to wait or stop briefly • "Can we go now?" "*Hang on*, I'll be ready in just a minute." **3 *hang on or hang on (to) (someone or something)*** : to hold or grip someone or something tightly • *Hang on* or you'll fall! • *Hang on* tight! • The children *hung on* his arm. • *Hang on to* your purse. • The children *hung on to* his arm. **4 *hang on to (something)*** : to keep (something) • You should *hang on to* those old coins; they could be valuable. **5 a *hang on (something)*** : to be determined or decided by (something) : to depend on (something) • The decision *hangs on* one vote. **b *hang (something) on (something)*** : to base (a story, theory, etc.) on (something) • There weren't enough facts *on* which to *hang* a newspaper story. • You can't *hang* your case *on* her testimony. **6 *hang on someone's every word*** : to listen very carefully or closely to (someone) • The children *hung on* the teacher's *every word*.

hang out [*phrasal verb*] **1** *informal* : to be or stay somewhere for a period of time without doing much • The gang *hangs out* at the corner store. • Our dog spends all his time *hanging out* [=*hanging around*] on the front porch. — see also HANGOUT **2 *hang out with (someone)*** *informal* : to spend time relaxing, talking, or doing something with (someone) : to hang around with (someone) • He spent a couple of days *hanging out with* his old friends. **3 *hang (something) out or hang out (something)*** : to hang (something wet) outside to dry • I *hung* the laundry *out* on the clothesline. • I *hung out* the sheets to dry. **4 *hang (someone or something) out to dry*** *informal* : to leave (someone or something) in a helpless or unprotected state • When things got tough, the company *hung* us *out to dry*.

hang out your shingle see ¹SHINGLE

hang over [*phrasal verb*] ***hang over (someone)*** : to be a threat or danger to (someone) : to cause (someone) to feel worried or guilty • They are glad that the deadline is no longer *hanging over* them. • I can't relax with that test ***hanging over my head***. [=I can't relax until after I take that test] — see also HANGOVER

hang tight [*phrasal verb*] *US, informal* : to wait before doing anything • Investors are being advised to *hang tight* until the stock market rebounds.

hang together [*phrasal verb*] *informal* **1** : to stay with someone • If we just *hang together* a while longer, I know that we can work out our problems. **2** : to work in a logical and effective way • The movie starts out well, but the story doesn't *hang together* after the first hour.

hang tough *chiefly US, informal* : to keep working or trying to succeed in a difficult situation • The team *hung tough* through the whole game, but lost in the end.

hang up [*phrasal verb*] **1 *hang up or hang up (something)*** ***or hang (something) up*** : to end a telephone connection by putting the handset on its base or by turning the telephone off • "Is he still on the phone?" "No, he *hung up*." • Let me talk to her before you *hang up* the phone. — often + *on* • I can't believe he *hung up on* me! [=that he suddenly hung up while I was talking to him on the phone] **2 *hang (something) up or hang up (something)*** : to put (something) on a hook or hanger • *Hang up* your coat, please. — see also ¹HANG 1a (above) **3 *hang up (something)*** *informal* : to stop doing (something) : to finish using (something) for the last time — used figuratively • She decided to *hang up* her running shoes [=she decided to quit running] and to start riding her bike instead. **4 *hang it up*** *US, informal* : to stop doing something • After all this time, you're just going to *hang it up*? [=*quit*] — see also HUNG UP

hang with [*phrasal verb*] ***hang with (someone)*** *US, informal* **1** : to spend time with (someone) • He's just been *hanging with* his friends. **2** : to stay close to (someone) : to keep up with (someone) • He *hung with* the leaders for the first half of the race, but then he began to fall behind.

hang your hat see HAT

hang your head : to have your head turned downward because of shame or embarrassment • He *hung his head* in shame.

let it all hang out see ¹LET

thereby hangs a tale — used to suggest that there is a story about something that has just been mentioned • I realized where I had seen him before—and *thereby hangs a tale*.

²hang *noun* [*singular*] : the way in which something hangs • the *hang* of a skirt

get the hang of *informal* : to learn the skills that are needed to do (something) • He was finally *getting the hang of* his job. [=he was finally beginning to understand and become skillful in his job] • She's *getting the hang of* driving.

give a hang *informal* : to be concerned or worried about something — usually used in negative statements • I don't *give a hang* [=I don't care] what they say.

hang·ar /ˈhæŋɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ars** [*count*] : a building where aircraft are kept

hang·dog /ˈhæŋˌdɑ:g/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : sad or depressed • He came home with a *hangdog* expression/look on his face.

hang·er /ˈhæŋɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a usually curved piece of metal, plastic, or wood that is used for hanging clothing

hang·er–on /ˈhæŋɚˌɑ:n/ *noun, pl* **hang·ers–on** [*count*] : someone who spends a lot of time around a person, place, or group in order to get something (such as fame, money, or power) • a star who is always surrounded by *hangers-on*

hang glider *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] : a small aircraft that consists of a metal frame covered with strong cloth and that is flown through the air by a person who hangs beneath it; *also* : a person who flies a hang glider

– **hang gliding** *noun* [*noncount*] • I've always wanted to try *hang gliding*.

hang·ing /ˈhæŋɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-ings**

1 : the act of killing someone by hanging that person from a rope tied around the neck [*count*] The *hanging* was scheduled for 3 o'clock. [*noncount*] He was sentenced to death by *hanging*.

2 [*count*] : something (such as a curtain) that is hung on a wall especially for decoration — often plural • There were several antique wall *hangings* in the house.

hang·man /ˈhæŋmən/ *noun, pl* **-men** /-mən/ [*count*] : a

person who kills criminals by hanging them

hang•nail /ˈhæŋˌneɪl/ *noun, pl* **-nails** [*count*] : a small piece of skin hanging loose at the side or bottom of a fingernail

hang•out /ˈhæŋˌaʊt/ *noun, pl* **-outs** [*count*] *informal* : a place where a person spends a lot of time ▪ The park was their favorite *hangout*. — see also *hang out* at ¹HANG

hang•over /ˈhæŋˌoʊvɚ/ *noun, pl* **-overs** [*count*] : a sick feeling or condition that comes after drinking too much alcohol at an earlier time ▪ She woke up with a *hangover*.

hang time *noun* [*noncount*] *US, informal* : the amount of time that something (especially a ball that is hit, kicked, or thrown) remains in the air ▪ He got some amazing *hang time* on that pass.

hang–up /ˈhæŋˌʌp/ *noun, pl* **-ups** [*count*] *informal* : something that causes you to feel worried, afraid, embarrassed, etc. ▪ We all have our *hang-ups*. — often + *about* ▪ He has a lot of *hang-ups about* money.

hank /ˈhæŋk/ *noun, pl* **hanks** [*count*] : an amount of yarn, thread, etc., that has been wound into a large loop or loose ball — compare SKEIN

han•ker /ˈhæŋkɚ/ *verb* **-kers**; **-kered**; **-ker•ing** [*no obj*] *informal + old-fashioned* : to have a strong or constant desire for something ▪ She is still *hankering* after [=*longing for*] a return to the good old days. = She is still *hankering* to return to the good old days. ▪ By the middle of the winter, they were *hankering* for a warm day.

– **hankering** *noun* [*singular*] *informal + old-fashioned* ▪ They had/felt a *hankering* for ice cream. ▪ She had a *hankering* to buy a new car.

han•kie *or* **han•ky** /ˈhæŋki/ *noun, pl* **-kies** [*count*] *informal* : HANDKERCHIEF

han•ky–pan•ky /ˌhæŋkiˈpæŋki/ *noun* [*noncount*] *informal*

1 : sexual activity ▪ We thought there was some *hanky-panky* going on between him and his secretary.

2 : dishonest or suspicious activity ▪ They accused the company of financial *hanky-panky*.

Ha•nuk•kah *also* **Cha•nu•kah** /ˈhɑːnəkə/ *noun, pl* **-kahs** [*count, noncount*] : an eight-day Jewish holiday that is celebrated in November or December

hap•haz•ard /ˌhæpˈhæzɚd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having no plan, order, or direction ▪ We were given a *haphazard* tour of the city. ▪ a *haphazard* procedure

– **hap•haz•ard•ly** *adv* ▪ Books and papers were scattered *haphazardly* on the desk.

hap•less /ˈhæpləs/ *adj, always used before a noun* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *somewhat formal + literary* : having no luck : very unfortunate ▪ She plays the *hapless* heroine who is unlucky in love.

– **hap•less•ly** *adv* ▪ the movie's *haplessly* ineffectual hero

hap•pen /ˈhæpən/ *verb* **-pens**; **-pened**; **-pen•ing** [*no obj*]

1 : to take place especially without being planned : OCCUR ▪ Mistakes/Accidents will *happen*. ▪ Something like that was bound to *happen* sooner or later. ▪ You never know what's going to *happen* when they get together. ▪ What *happened* at school today? ▪ "What's *happening*?" "They're installing new equipment."

2 *not used in progressive tenses* **a** : to do or be something by chance — followed by *to + verb* ▪ The children *happened to be* asleep when we called. ▪ I *happened to overhear* their conversation. ▪ I *happen to know* his brother. ▪ Do you *happen to know* the way to the station? **b** — used with *it* to describe something that occurs by chance ▪ *It* (so) *happened* that the children were asleep when we called. ▪ *It happened* to rain that day. ▪ As *it happened*, it rained that day. ▪ *It* (just so) *happens* that I know his brother. **c** — used to make an angry or forceful statement; followed by *to + verb* ▪ The woman you've been looking at *happens to be* my wife! ▪ I *happen to think* that the movie was actually very good.

happen along *or* ***happen by*** [*phrasal verb*] *US, literary + old-fashioned* : to come to or by a place by chance ▪ He was about to leave when his old girlfriend *happened by*.

happen into [*phrasal verb*] ***happen into (a place)*** *US* : to enter (a place) by chance ▪ She *happened into* the room just as the music started.

happen on/upon [*phrasal verb*] ***happen on/upon (someone or something)*** *literary + old-fashioned* : to find or meet (someone or something) by chance ▪ She *happened on* a little cottage in the woods. ▪ I *happened upon* them at the grocery store.

happen to [*phrasal verb*] ***happen to (someone or something)*** : to affect or involve (someone or something) as the result of an event or action ▪ An odd thing *happened to* me on my way to the office last week. ▪ I wonder what/whatever *happened to* that guy. [=I wonder where that guy has gone and what he has been doing]; *especially* : to affect (someone or something) in a bad or harmful way ▪ I promise nothing will *happen to* you. ▪ What *happened to* the car? There's a big scratch on the fender.

¹happening *noun, pl* **-ings** [*count*] : an event or occurrence — often plural ▪ There were strange *happenings* at the inn.

²happening *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *informal* : fashionable or popular ▪ This is quite a *happening* town on the weekends.

hap•pen•stance /ˈhæpənˌstæns/ *noun, pl* **-stances** *formal + literary* : something that happens by chance [*noncount*] Our meeting was pure *happenstance*. ▪ We met each other by *happenstance*. [*count*] It was an agreeable *happenstance* that we met.

hap•pi•ly /ˈhæpəli/ *adv* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : in a happy way or state ▪ They have been *happily* married for 12 years. ▪ The story ended *happily*. ▪ She giggled *happily*. ▪ They lived *happily* ever after.

2 — used to say that something good or lucky has happened ▪ *Happily*, no one was injured. [=I am happy to say that no one was injured]

3 : in a very willing way ▪ He says he'll *happily* [=*gladly*] postpone the appointment. ▪ We *happily* accept credit cards.

hap•pi•ness /ˈhæpinəs/ *noun, pl* **-ness•es**

1 [*noncount*] : the state of being happy : JOY ▪ They made a toast to long life and *happiness*. ▪ They found *happiness* together.

2 [*count*] *somewhat formal* : an experience that makes you happy ▪ I wish the them every *happiness*. [=I hope that they will be very happy]

hap•py /ˈhæpi/ *adj* **hap•pi•er**; **-est**

1 a : feeling pleasure and enjoyment because of your life, situation, etc. ▪ She was a very *happy* child. ▪ I can see that you're not *happy* in your work. [=I can see that you do not enjoy your work] ▪ You don't look *happy*. What's the problem? ▪ We're all one big, *happy* family here. ▪ I'd do anything to make/keep her *happy*. ▪ She's *happy* playing with her toys. = She's *happy* when she plays with her toys. **b** : showing or causing feelings of pleasure and enjoyment ▪ I could hear the children's *happy* laughter in the other room. ▪ She had a very *happy* childhood. ▪ They've had a very *happy* marriage. ▪ remembering *happier* times ▪ a *happy* event/occasion ▪ I was glad the movie had a ***happy ending***. **c** *not used before a noun* : pleased or glad about a particular situation, event, etc. ▪ We are so *happy* that you were able to come to the party. ▪ They are not at all *happy* about the rise in taxes. ▪ He's not *happy* with the way the project is going. ▪ It's great that he won the scholarship. I'm very ***happy for*** him. [=I am glad something good happened to him] **d** : very willing to do something — usually followed by *to + verb* ▪ I would be *happy to assist* you.

2 — used as part of a greeting or wish for someone on a special holiday or occasion ▪ *Happy* birthday, Mom! ▪ *Happy* Holidays!

3 *always used before a noun* : lucky or fortunate ▪ We were brought together by a series of *happy* accidents. ▪ a *happy* coincidence

4 *always used before a noun* : fitting or suitable ▪ a *happy* choice of words ▪ He was a *happy* choice for chairman of the committee.

(as) happy as a clam see ¹CLAM

happy medium see ¹MEDIUM

happy returns see ²RETURN

– see also TRIGGER-HAPPY

happy camper *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] *chiefly US, informal* : someone who is pleased or happy ▪ I was one *happy camper* when I heard the news. — often used in negative statements ▪ When she found out that the report wasn't ready, she was not a *happy camper*. [=she was angry or upset]

hap•py–go–lucky /ˌhæpigoʊˈlʌki/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not worried about anything ▪ He's always been a *happy-go-lucky* guy. ▪ She has a *happy-go-lucky* disposition.

happy hour *noun, pl* ~ **hours** [*count, noncount*] : a time at a bar when drinks are sold at a lower price than usual ▪ *Happy hour* runs from 5:00 to 7:00.

¹ha•rangue /həˈræŋ/ *noun, pl* **-rangues** [*count*] : a forceful or angry speech ▪ He delivered a long *harangue* about the evils of popular culture.

²harangue *verb* **-rangues**; **-rangued**; **-rangu•ing** [+ *obj*] : to speak to (someone) in a forceful or angry way : to deliver a harangue to (someone) ▪ He *harangued* us for hours

about the evils of popular culture.

ha•rass /hə'ræs, 'herəs/ *verb* **-rass•es**; **-rassed**; **-rass•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to annoy or bother (someone) in a constant or repeated way ▪ She was constantly *harassed* by the other students. ▪ He claims that he is being unfairly *harassed* by the police. ▪ He was accused of ***sexually harassing*** his secretary. [=of making unwanted sexual comments to her]
2 : to make repeated attacks against (an enemy) ▪ The troops *harrassed* the defeated army throughout its retreat.
– **harassed** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ She looked very *harassed* and distraught. – **ha•rass•ment** /hə'ræsmənt, 'herəsmənt/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ police *harassment* ▪ children subjected to *harassment* by bullies ▪ He was accused of ***sexual harassment***.

har•bin•ger /'hɑəbənʤə/ *noun, pl* **-gers** [*count*] **:** something that shows what is coming — usually + *of* ▪ The warm weather is a *harbinger of* spring. ▪ Is this news a *harbinger of* better days to come? ▪ a *harbinger of* death/doom

[1]har•bor (*US*) *or Brit* **har•bour** /'hɑəbə/ *noun, pl* **-bors** [*count*]
1 : a part of the ocean, a lake, etc., that is next to land and that is protected and deep enough to provide safety for ships
2 : a place of safety and comfort **:** HAVEN — often used in the phrase ***safe harbor*** ▪ She can always find (a) *safe harbor* in her home.

[2]harbor (*US*) *or Brit* **har•bour** *verb* **-bors**; **-bored**; **-bor•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to give shelter to (someone) **:** to hide and protect (someone) ▪ It is illegal to *harbor* an escaped convict.
2 : to have (something, such as a thought or feeling) in your mind for a long time ▪ He still *harbors* deep feelings of resentment toward his former employer. ▪ I don't *harbor* any illusions about our chances for success. ▪ *harbor* a grudge ▪ *harbor* doubts/bitterness
3 : to hold or contain (something) ▪ She studies the genetic material *harbored* in a cell's nucleus. ▪ Some of these animals may *harbor* disease that could affect humans.

[1]hard /'hɑəd/ *adj* **hard•er**; **-est**
1 : very firm or solid **:** not easy to bend, cut, etc. **:** not soft ▪ *hard* ground ▪ a *hard* bench/floor/shell ▪ *hard* cheese/rubber ▪ This bread is (as) ***hard as a rock***. [=very hard] — opposite SOFT
2 : physically or mentally difficult **:** not easy ▪ That test was *hard*. ▪ a *hard* task ▪ *hard* work ▪ She was asked a lot of *hard* questions. ▪ We're going to have to make some *hard* choices/decisions. ▪ It's *hard* to solve this problem. = This is a *hard* problem (to solve). = This problem is *hard* (to solve). ▪ He's a *hard* guy to figure out. = He's a guy who's *hard* to figure out. = It's *hard* to figure that guy out. ▪ It was very *hard* to find a replacement for her. ▪ Their story is *hard* to believe. ▪ It's *hard* not to worry about her. ▪ It's *hard* to tell/know what she's thinking. ▪ He was sentenced to five years of ***hard labor***. [=time in prison spent in intense physical labor]
3 a : difficult to experience **:** severe or harsh ▪ He has learned a *hard* lesson. ▪ It's been a *hard* winter. [=a very cold winter with harsh weather] **:** having a lot of pain, trouble, or worries ▪ She has had a very *hard* life. = Life has been very *hard* for her. ▪ I had a *hard* [=*tough*] day at the office. ▪ We've been having some *hard* [=*poor, bad*] luck. ✧ ***Hard times*** are times when there is a lot of trouble, poverty, worry, or failure. ▪ She's stuck with them through all the *hard times*. ▪ The region has been experiencing some economic *hard times*. ▪ After years of success, their business has ***fallen on hard times***. **b :** having a harmful or destructive effect ▪ His health has suffered from years of *hard* living. ▪ This old bicycle has obviously gotten some *hard* use.
4 : working or doing something with a lot of energy ▪ She's a *hard* [=*diligent, energetic*] worker.
5 : very forceful ▪ The plane made a *hard* [=*jarring*] landing. ▪ He hit a *hard* line drive past the shortstop. ▪ A *hard* rain was falling. ▪ He was knocked out by a *hard* right to the jaw. **:** quick and forceful ▪ *hard* acceleration ▪ *hard* braking ▪ a *hard* left turn
6 : done with a lot of careful thought and attention **:** thorough or intense ▪ The jeweler gave the gem a long *hard* look. [=the jeweler looked at the gem very closely and carefully] ▪ Investors are taking a very *hard* look at how the company does business.
7 : able to be clearly seen and measured **:** not able to be questioned or doubted ▪ Those are the (cold) *hard* facts of the case. ▪ She is still collecting *hard* data on the software's performance. ▪ It's an interesting theory, but there is no *hard* evidence that supports it.
8 a : not seeming to care about other people or to feel kindness or affection ▪ He's a *hard* man. ▪ a *hard* taskmaster ▪ She has an extremely *hard* [=*unfeeling*] heart. ▪ He's ***as hard as nails***. [=he's very hard or tough] — opposite SOFT **b :** not gentle or friendly ▪ *hard* [=*harsh*] words
9 : holding extreme political views ▪ a member of the *hard* [=*far, extreme*] right/left
10 : relating to serious matters ▪ They only report *hard* news. — opposite SOFT
11 a : containing a large amount of alcohol ▪ *hard* liquor ▪ the *hard* stuff **b :** containing alcohol ▪ *hard* cider/lemonade
12 : powerful and extremely harmful to the health ▪ cocaine and other *hard* drugs — opposite SOFT
13 *of water* **:** containing many minerals and therefore unable to make bubbles with soap ▪ *hard* water — opposite SOFT
14 : having clear, sharp lines ▪ trying to soften the *hard* edges of the image
15 : very bright and unpleasant ▪ *hard* lighting ▪ the cold, *hard* light of day
16 : sounding like the "c" in "cold" or the "g" in "geese" ▪ The "g" in "gorilla" is *hard*, but the "g" in "giant" is soft. ▪ the *hard* "c" in "cat" — opposite SOFT
17 *informal* **:** physically strong ▪ *hard* [=*muscular*] bodies
a hard act to follow see FOLLOW
a hard nut (to crack) see NUT
a hard row to hoe see [1]ROW
between a rock and a hard place see [2]ROCK
drive a hard bargain see [1]BARGAIN
give (someone) a hard time **:** to criticize or annoy someone ▪ They *gave him a hard time* about quitting the team.
hard feelings **1** ✧ If you have *hard feelings*, you feel dislike or anger toward someone who you think has mistreated you. ▪ She felt/had no *hard feelings* towards him. ▪ The court's decision has caused a lot of *hard feelings*. **2** ✧ The phrase ***no hard feelings*** is used in speech to say that you are not upset or to ask if someone else is upset. ▪ "I'm sorry I broke our date last night." "That's OK; *no hard feelings*." ▪ "So, we're still friends, right? *No hard feelings*?"
hard knocks see [2]KNOCK
hard of hearing **:** not able to hear well ▪ He has become a little *hard of hearing* in his old age.
hard on **1 a :** causing damage or strain to (something) ▪ Reading in dim light is *hard on* your eyes. [=it puts a strain on your eyes; it is not good for them] ▪ This kind of work can be *hard on* your back. **b :** causing stress or worry to (someone) ▪ These past few months have been *hard on* everyone, but things should get better soon. **2 :** treating or judging (someone) in a harsh or critical way ▪ Don't be too *hard on* the boy. [=don't judge or treat the boy too harshly] ▪ She is sometimes too *hard on* herself. ▪ There's no need to be so *hard on* yourself—you did the best you could.
hard up *informal* **1 :** lacking money ▪ We're pretty *hard up* these days. **2 :** having not enough of something — + *for* ▪ She always seems to be *hard up for* cash. ▪ He's *hard up for* friends. [=he has few friends]
have a hard time ✧ If you *have a hard time* doing something or with something, it is difficult for you. ▪ She's *having a hard time* adjusting to college life. ▪ The school has *had a hard time* recruiting substitute teachers. ▪ He's been *having a hard time* with his research paper.
play hard to get see [1]PLAY
the hard way **:** in a way that involves difficult or painful experiences ▪ He found out *the hard way* that crime doesn't pay. [=he found out by being punished for his crimes] ▪ She insisted on doing things *the hard way*.

[2]hard *adv* **hard•er**; **-est**
1 : with a lot of effort or energy ▪ You have to work *hard* in order to succeed. ▪ I know how *hard* she tried. ▪ She ran as *hard* as she could. ▪ working/studying/fighting *hard* ▪ We've thought ***long and hard*** about this problem. ✧ If you are ***hard at work*** (on something) you are doing work with a lot of effort and energy. ▪ You shouldn't disturb her while she's *hard at work*. ▪ We're *hard at work* on the new project.
2 : in a very forceful way ▪ He hit the ball *hard*. ▪ a *hard*-hit ball ▪ The ball hit him *hard* on the wrist. ▪ He pressed his nose *hard* against the window. ▪ swallowing *hard* ▪ She pushed *hard* against the door, but it wouldn't open. ▪ The wind was blowing *hard*. ▪ The snow/rain came down *hard*. ▪ The dog bit down *hard* on the thief's hand. **:** in a loud and forceful way ▪ She was breathing *hard*. ▪ laughing/crying *hard* ✧ If you are ***hit hard*** or ***hard hit*** by something or if something ***hits***

you hard, it affects you powerfully in a very painful or shocking way. ▪ His business was *hit hard* by the recession. ▪ Her sudden death *hit them hard*. ✧ If you ***take something hard*** you are very upset or hurt by it. ▪ She *took it hard* [=she was very upset] when he left. ▪ We *took* the defeat *hard*.

3 a : in a very direct and intense way ▪ He looked *hard* into her eyes. **b :** in an extreme or complete way ▪ He fell *hard* for the girl next door.

die hard see ¹DIE

hard by *old-fashioned* : next to ▪ The school stood *hard by* a church.

hard done by *Brit* : treated harshly or unfairly ▪ He felt very *hard done by* when he was laid off after many years of faithful service.

hard on the heels of see ¹HEEL

hard–and–fast /ˌhɑəd|nˈfæst, *Brit* ˌhɑ:dn̩ˈfɑ:st/ *adj* — used to say that something (such as a rule) cannot be changed ▪ a *hard-and-fast* rule

hard–ass /ˈhɑədˌæs/ *noun, pl* **-ass•es** [*count*] *chiefly US, informal + impolite* : a very tough person who treats other people harshly ▪ He has a reputation for being a *hard-ass*.
– **hard–assed** /ˈhɑədˌæst/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ a *hard-assed* cop/journalist

hard•back /ˈhɑədˌbæk/ *noun, pl* **-backs** : HARDCOVER [*count*] The store sells only *hardbacks*. [*noncount*] The book is sold only in *hardback*. ▪ a *hardback* edition

hard•ball /ˈhɑədˌbɑ:l/ *noun* [*noncount*] *chiefly US, informal*
1 : BASEBALL
2 : forceful and sometimes dishonest methods used to get something you want — often used after *play* ▪ He's not afraid to *play* political *hardball*. [=to use tough and perhaps dishonest methods to meet a political goal] ▪ *hardball* tactics/politics

hard–bit•ten /ˈhɑədˈbɪtn̩/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : tough and experienced ▪ *hard-bitten* journalists ▪ a *hard-bitten* cynic/skeptic

hard–boiled /ˈhɑədˈbojəld/ *adj*
1 *of an egg* : boiled until all the inside parts have become solid ▪ *hard-boiled* eggs — compare SOFT-BOILED
2 a [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not feeling or showing emotions such as affection or kindness : emotionally tough ▪ a *hard-boiled* detective **b** *chiefly US* : having a tough detective as the main character ▪ a *hard-boiled* novel ▪ *hard-boiled* fiction

hard•bound /ˈhɑədˌbaʊnd/ *adj, chiefly US, of a book* : having a stiff or hard cover ▪ *hardbound* books [=hardcovers] — compare SOFTBOUND

hard candy *noun, pl* ~ **-dies** [*count, noncount*] : a small, hard piece of candy with a sweet and usually fruity flavor — called also (*Brit*) *boiled sweet*

hard cash *noun* [*noncount*] : money that a person has and can use immediately : money in the form of bills and coins rather than checks or credit cards ▪ He wanted *hard cash* for his watch.

hard–charging *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *US* : very aggressive, determined, or ambitious : HARD-DRIVING ▪ a *hard-charging* young executive

hard–cooked *adj, US* : HARD-BOILED 1 ▪ *hard-cooked* eggs

hard copy *noun, pl* ~ **cop•ies** [*count*] *computers* : a printed copy of a document ▪ print a *hard copy* of the report

hard core *noun* [*singular*] : a small number of very active and enthusiastic members of a group : the most devoted and active members of a group ▪ He knows that he can count on the support of a *hard core* of party loyalists.

hard–core /ˈhɑədˈkoə/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : very active and enthusiastic ▪ He knows that he can count on his *hard-core* supporters. ▪ *hard-core* fans
2 : showing or describing sex acts very openly ▪ *hard-core* pornography — compare SOFT-CORE

hard•cov•er /ˈhɑədˈkʌvə/ *noun, pl* **-ers** *US* : a book that has stiff or hard covers [*count*] She bought several *hardcovers*. [*noncount*] His first novel was published in *hardcover* last spring. — often used before another noun ▪ the book's *hardcover* [=*hardbound*] edition — called also *hardback*; compare PAPERBACK, SOFTCOVER

hard currency *noun, pl* ~ **-cies** [*count, noncount*] : money that comes from a country with a strong government and economy and that is not likely to lose its value

hard disk *noun, pl* ~ **disks** [*count*] *computers* : a disk that is not flexible and that is used to store computer data ▪ Remember to save the file to your *hard disk*. — compare FLOPPY DISK, HARD DRIVE

hard–drinking *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] — used to describe a person who often drinks a lot of alcohol ▪ He had a troubled relationship with his violent, *hard-drinking* father.

hard drive *noun, pl* ~ **drives** [*count*] *computers* : a device that is used for storing computer data and that contains one or more hard disks ▪ an external/removable *hard drive*

hard–driv•ing /ˈhɑədˈdraɪvɪŋ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : very aggressive, determined, or ambitious ▪ a *hard-driving* businesswoman/entrepreneur

hard–earned *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : achieved or acquired through a lot of effort or hard work ▪ Someone stole all her *hard-earned* money. ▪ a *hard-earned* victory

hard–edged /ˈhɑədˈɛʤd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having a tough or sharp quality ▪ Critics have praised her *hard-edged* satire. ▪ *hard-edged* realism ▪ a *hard-edged* campaigner

hard•en /ˈhɑədn̩/ *verb* **-ens; -ened; -en•ing**
1 : to become hard or firm or to make (something) hard or firm [*no obj*] It will take several hours for the concrete to *harden* (into a solid block). ▪ The gel *hardens* quickly. ▪ The presence of certain substances in the blood can cause the arteries to *harden*. [+ *obj*] These additives are designed to *harden* the steel. ▪ substances that can *harden* the arteries
2 : to become more definite and strongly felt or to make (something) more definite and strongly felt [*no obj*] Opposition to the goverment has *hardened* as news of further scandals has leaked out. [+ *obj*] The news has *hardened* opposition to the government.
3 [+ *obj*] : to make (someone) hard : to make (someone) less emotional and less likely to feel sorry for other people ▪ He had been *hardened* by his years of military service.
4 [*no obj*] : to begin to be or seem harsh, angry, serious, etc. ▪ Her voice/manner *hardened* as she spoke of her determination to win.

harden your heart ✧ If you *harden your heart* or if something *hardens your heart*, you stop having kind or friendly feelings for someone. ▪ She *hardened her heart* against him.
– **hard•en•er** /ˈhɑədnəˈ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ a metal *hardener* – **hardening** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ *hardening* of the arteries

hardened *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 — used to describe something that has become hard ▪ *hardened* arteries ▪ a *hardened* patch of skin
2 : very tough because of harsh experiences : not having the kind of emotions (such as fear, sorrow, etc.) that most people feel in difficult or dangerous situations ▪ a *hardened* criminal ▪ It's so dangerous that even *hardened* journalists won't go there. ✧ If you become ***hardened to*** something, you are no longer saddened or shocked when you see or experience it. ▪ New doctors quickly become *hardened to* the terrible injuries suffered by accident victims.

hard–eyed /ˈhɑədˌaɪd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : looking at things in a very critical way without emotion ▪ a *hard-eyed* realist ▪ *hard-eyed* scrutiny

hard–fought *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : requiring a lot of effort or hard work ▪ He won a *hard-fought* campaign for reelection.
2 : achieved or acquired through a lot of effort or hard work ▪ a *hard-fought* [=*hard-earned*] victory/triumph

hard hat *noun, pl* ~ **hats** [*count*] : a hat that is worn by workers at a building site to protect their heads from falling objects — see picture at HAT

hard•head•ed /ˈhɑədˈhɛdəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : not willing to change ideas or opinions : very stubborn ▪ He was always *hardheaded* about getting his way. ▪ a *hardheaded* old man
2 : having or involving careful and practical thoughts and ideas that are not influenced by emotions : practical and realistic ▪ We need to take a more *hardheaded* approach to these problems. ▪ She gave him some *hardheaded* advice. ▪ a *hardheaded* judgment/analysis
– **hard•head•ed•ly** *adv* ▪ dealing *hardheadedly* with the facts – **hard•head•ed•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *hardheadedness* of the old man

hard–heart•ed /ˈhɑədˈhɑətəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having or showing no kindness or sympathy for other people ▪ a *hard-hearted* businessman ▪ a *hard-hearted* decision
– **hard–heart•ed•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

hard–hit•ting /ˈhɑəˈhɪtɪŋ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : very effective or forceful ▪ a *hard-hitting* interview/documentary ▪ a *hard-hitting* [=*aggressive*] investigative reporter

hard line *noun* [*singular*] : a strict and forceful way of behaving when you are dealing with other people — usually

used after *take* • She is known for *taking* a *hard line* with terrorists. [=for dealing with terrorists in a forceful way] • The government has *taken* a *hard line* in treaty negotiations.
– **hard–line** /ˈhɑɚdˈlaɪn/ *adj* • a *hard-line* [=very strict] conservative – **hard–lin•er** /ˈhɑɚˈlaɪnɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] • conservative/liberal *hard-liners*

hard–luck /ˈhɑɚdˌlʌk/ *adj, always used before a noun*
1 : of or relating to bad luck • a *hard-luck* story
2 *chiefly US* : experiencing or having bad luck • He was the *hard-luck* [=*unlucky*] loser of last night's match.

hard•ly /ˈhɑɚdli/ *adv*
1 a : BARELY, SCARCELY — used to say that something was almost not possible or almost did not happen • She could *hardly* bear to look at him. • I could *hardly* believe my eyes. [=it was difficult to believe what I was seeing] • I can *hardly* believe it! • She was *hardly* able to control her excitement. **b** : almost not at all • We *hardly* knew them. • It *hardly* matters what I think. • The changes in service have *hardly* been noticed. **c** : almost not • There are *hardly* any new features in this software. • *Hardly* anyone showed up for the meeting. • *Hardly* a day goes by when I don't think about you. **d** — used to say that something reached a specifed condition or happened only a short time before • I had *hardly* [=*barely*] arrived when the telephone rang.
2 : certainly not • The news is *hardly* surprising. = The news is *hardly* a surprise. [=the news is not surprising at all] • This is *hardly* a new idea for a movie. • "Is this a new idea for a movie?" "*Hardly*! I've seen dozens of movies just like it."
hardly ever see EVER

hard•ness /ˈhɑɚdnəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the quality or state of being hard • the *hardness* of a diamond • The wood's *hardness* makes it suitable for carving. • There was a *hardness* [=*toughness*] in her voice I hadn't heard before.

hard–nosed /ˈhɑɚdˈnoʊzd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : very tough • She can be very *hard-nosed* in her business dealings. • a *hard-nosed* football player
2 : not influenced by emotions : practical and realistic : HARDHEADED • *hard-nosed* science/realism • a *hard-nosed* analysis

hard–on /ˈhɑɚdˌɑːn/ *noun, pl* **-ons** [*count*] *impolite* : an erection of the penis

hard–pressed /ˈhɑɚdˈprɛst/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 — used to say that it is difficult to do something; followed by *to* + *verb* • You would be *hard-pressed to find* a better solution. [=it would be difficult to find a better solution] • He was *hard-pressed to prove* the claims he'd made.
2 : in a bad situation because you do not have enough money, time, etc. • a financially *hard-pressed* public school system • *hard-pressed* nations/voters/farmers — sometimes + *for* • families that are *hard-pressed for* time/money • He's *hard-pressed for* space [=he does not have much space] in his new apartment.

hard put *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : HARD-PRESSED — used to say that it is difficult to do something; followed by *to* + *verb* • He was *hard put to describe* their musical style. [=it was difficult for him to describe their musical style] • I would be *hard put to find* an explanation. — sometimes used in the phrase ***hard put to it*** • She was *hard put to it* to say what the story was about. [=she found it hard to say what the story was about]

hard rock *noun* [*noncount*] : loud rock music that has a heavy regular beat — compare SOFT ROCK

hard rocker *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] : someone who plays or performs hard rock

hard science *noun, pl* ~ **-ences** [*count, noncount*] : a science (such as chemistry, physics, or astronomy) that deals with things that can be observed and measured
– **hard scientist** *noun, pl* ~ **-ist** [*count*]

hard•scrab•ble /ˈhɑɚdˌskræbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *US*
1 : having poor soil • a *hardscrabble* farm • *hardscrabble* prairies
2 : having harsh and difficult conditions because of poverty • a *hardscrabble* childhood • He lived a *hardscrabble* life. • a *hardscrabble* cotton town

hard sell *noun* [*singular*]
1 : an aggressive way of selling something — usually used with *the* • He gives every customer *the hard sell*. — compare SOFT SELL
2 *US* : something that is difficult to sell : something that others are not willing or likely to accept • Such an expensive project will be a *hard sell* during these slow economic times.

hard•ship /ˈhɑɚdˌʃɪp/ *noun, pl* **-ships**
1 [*noncount*] : pain and suffering • He had suffered through considerable/great *hardship*. • The city has been experiencing a period of financial/economic *hardship*.
2 [*count*] : something that causes pain, suffering, or loss • They had to endure the *hardships* of life on the frontier.

hard shoulder *noun, pl* ~ **-ders** [*count*] *Brit* : ¹SHOULDER 5

hard•top /ˈhɑɚdˌtɑːp/ *noun, pl* **-tops** [*count*] : a car that has a metal top which cannot be removed — compare CONVERTIBLE

hard•ware /ˈhɑɚdˌweɚ/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : things (such as tools or parts of machines) that are made of metal • a *hardware* store
2 : equipment used for a particular purpose • military *hardware* [=guns, tanks, etc.] *especially* : computer equipment • She bought some new *hardware* for her system. — compare SOFTWARE

hard–wearing *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *Brit* : lasting for a long time : DURABLE • *hard-wearing* boots

hard•wired /ˈhɑɚdˌwajɚd/ *adj* : having permanent electronic circuits and connections • a *hardwired* network — often used figuratively • Humans are *hardwired* for speech. = Speech is *hardwired* in/into the human brain. • Mothers are *hardwired* to protect their children.

hard–won /ˈhɑɚdˈwʌn/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : HARD-EARNED • a *hard-won* victory • our *hard-won* reputation for quality

hard•wood /ˈhɑɚdˌwʊd/ *noun, pl* **-woods**
1 [*count, noncount*] : the wood of a tree (such as an oak or maple) that is heavy and hard • They used expensive *hardwoods* for the flooring. — often used before another noun • *hardwood* floors
2 [*count*] : a tree that produces hardwood • oaks, maples, and other *hardwoods* — often used before another noun • *hardwood* forests — compare SOFTWOOD

hard•work•ing /ˈhɑɚdˈwɚkɪŋ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : using a lot of time and energy to do work : INDUSTRIOUS • a *hard-working* young woman [=a young woman who works hard]

har•dy /ˈhɑɚdi/ *adj* **har•di•er**; **-est**
1 : able to live through difficult conditions (such as a cold winter or a drought) • a *hardy* rose • the *hardiest* plants/animals
2 : strong and able to accept difficult or unpleasant conditions • Most of the soldiers were *hardy* young men. • *Hardy* fans stuck with the team through good times and bad. • Only the *hardiest* pilgrims made the journey.
– **har•di•ness** /ˈhɑɚdinəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] • the *hardiness* of the rose • cattle bred for *hardiness*

¹hare /ˈheɚ/ *noun, pl* **hares** *also* **hare** [*count*] : a fast animal that resembles a rabbit

²hare *verb* **hares**; **hared**; **har•ing** [*no obj*] *Brit, informal* : to run or go very quickly • He came *haring* round the corner at top speed.

hare•brained /ˈheɚˈbreɪnd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *informal* : very silly or foolish • a *harebrained* scheme/idea/plan

hare•lip /ˈheɚˈlɪp/ *noun, pl* **-lips** [*count*] *old-fashioned + often offensive* : CLEFT LIP

har•em /ˈherəm/ *noun, pl* **-ems** [*count*]
1 a : a house or part of a house in which the women of a Muslim household live **b** : the women who live in a harem in a Muslim household
2 *informal* : a group of women who are associated with one man • the pop star and his *harem*

har•i•cot bean /ˈherɪˌkoʊ-/ *noun, pl* ~ **beans** [*count*] *Brit* : NAVY BEAN

hark /ˈhɑɚk/ *verb* **harks**; **harked**; **hark•ing** [*no obj*] *old-fashioned + literary* : LISTEN — usually used as a command • "*Hark*! I hear a rustling of the leaves." —H. D. Thoreau, *Walden* (1854) • "*Hark*, she speaks!" —Shakespeare, *Macbeth* (1605–06)
hark back to [*phrasal verb*] ***hark back to (something)*** **1** : to return to or remember (something in the past) • He always *harks back to* the good old days of his youth. **2** : to look or seem like (something in the past) • The movie has a style that *harks back to* the golden age of Hollywood.

har•le•quin /ˈhɑɚlɪkwən/ *noun, pl* **-quins** [*count*]
1 : a pattern of diamond-shaped figures of different colors — usually used before another noun • fabric decorated with a *harlequin* pattern • *harlequin* ice cream
2 *or* ***Harlequin*** : a comic character in old stories and plays who wears a mask and colorful clothes with a diamond pattern

har•lot /ˈhɑələt/ *noun, pl* **-lots** [*count*] *old-fashioned + disapproving* : PROSTITUTE

[1]harm /ˈhɑəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : physical or mental damage or injury : something that causes someone or something to be hurt, broken, made less valuable or successful, etc. ▪ No *harm* was done. ▪ I never meant to do/cause you any *harm*. [=I never meant to harm/hurt you in any way] ▪ They threatened him with bodily *harm*. ▪ The scandal has done irreparable/lasting/great *harm* to his reputation. ▪ I want to be sure that no *harm* will come to her. = I want to be sure that she won't come to any *harm*. [=that she won't be hurt in any way] ▪ She'll do anything to protect her children from *harm*. ▪ They have suffered serious physical/psychological *harm*. ▪ These new regulations could cause lasting *harm* to small businesses. ▪ He claims that he didn't mean any *harm*. [=that he didn't mean to hurt or bother anyone] ▪ What's the *harm* in letting her leave early? = I don't see any *harm* in letting her leave early. = There's no *harm* in letting her leave early. [=letting her leave early will not hurt anyone or cause a bad result] ▪ He thinks the treatment may ***do more harm than good***. [=be more harmful than helpful]

harm's way : a dangerous place or situation ▪ As a war correspondent, she never hesitated to put herself in *harm's way*. ▪ The soldiers were sent into *harm's way*. ▪ The tug towed the sailboat out of *harm's way*.

no harm done *informal* — used to tell someone that no apology or concern is necessary because no damage has been done ▪ "I'm so sorry about forgetting to call earlier." "That's OK. *No harm done*."

[2]harm *verb* **harms**; **harmed**; **harm•ing** [+ *obj*] : to cause hurt, injury, or damage to (someone or something) : to cause harm to (someone or something) ▪ He would never intentionally *harm* his children. ▪ She is trying to destroy weeds without *harming* [=*damaging*] her crops. ▪ chemicals that could *harm* the environment ▪ The scandal has seriously *harmed* his reputation. ***synonyms*** see INJURE

harm•ful /ˈhɑəmfəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : causing or capable of causing damage or harm ▪ The chemical kills *harmful* [=*dangerous*] bacteria. ▪ They claim that the drug has no *harmful* [=*bad*] side effects. — often + *to* ▪ These conditions can be *harmful to* plant/animal life.

– **harm•ful•ly** *adv* – **harm•ful•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

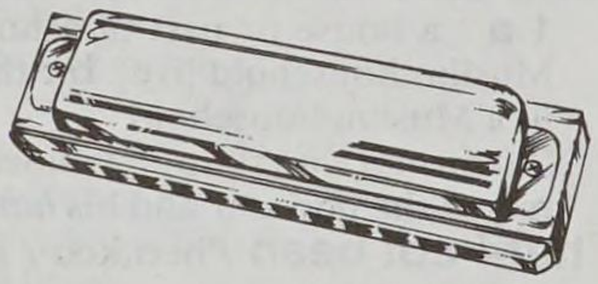
harm•less /ˈhɑəmləs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not causing harm : unable to cause harm : not dangerous ▪ a *harmless* snake ▪ His ideas seem *harmless* enough. : not meant to cause harm or offense ▪ We're just having a bit of *harmless* fun. ▪ It was just a *harmless* joke. — sometimes + *to* ▪ These chemicals are deadly to insects but they are supposed to be *harmless to* animals and people.

– **harm•less•ly** *adv* ▪ The incident began *harmlessly* enough but soon escalated into a riot. – **harm•less•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

har•mon•ic /hɑəˈmɑːnɪk/ *adj, technical* : of or relating to musical harmony rather than melody or rhythm ▪ two different *harmonic* styles

– **har•mon•i•cal•ly** /hɑəˈmɑːnɪkli/ *adv* ▪ a piece that is *harmonically* simple but melodically complex

har•mon•i•ca /hɑəˈmɑːnɪkə/ *noun, pl* **-cas** [*count*] : a small musical instrument that is played with your mouth ✧ A harmonica has many small openings that produce different sounds when air is blown or sucked through them.



harmonica

har•mo•ni•ous /hɑəˈmoʊnijəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 *music* : having a pleasing mixture or combination of notes ▪ a *harmonious* song ▪ *harmonious* voices

2 : having parts that are related or combined in a pleasing way ▪ The living room was decorated in *harmonious* colors. ▪ a *harmonious* combination of flavors

3 : not experiencing disagreement or fighting ▪ a *harmonious* family ▪ The two countries have maintained a *harmonious* [=friendly and peaceful] relationship for many years. ▪ *harmonious* relations

– **har•mo•ni•ous•ly** *adv* ▪ Their voices blended together *harmoniously*. ▪ flavors/colors blending with each other *harmoniously* ▪ people living together *harmoniously* – **har•mo•ni•ous•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *harmoniousness* of their voices

har•mo•nize *also Brit* **har•mo•nise** /ˈhɑəməˌnaɪz/ *verb* **-niz•es**; **-nized**; **-niz•ing**

1 [*no obj*] : to play or sing different musical notes that sound pleasing together : to play or sing in harmony ▪ A group of singers were *harmonizing* on the street corner.

2 [*no obj*] : to be combined or go together in a pleasing way : to be in harmony ▪ The flavors *harmonize* (with one another) beautifully. ▪ Their beliefs did not always *harmonize*.

3 [+ *obj*] : to cause (two or more things) to be combined or to go together in a pleasing or effective way ▪ The singers *harmonized* their voices beautifully. ▪ a recipe that *harmonizes* flavors from different parts of the world ▪ The background music is not *harmonized* with the action on-screen.

– **har•mo•ni•za•tion** *also Brit* **har•mo•ni•sa•tion** /ˌhɑəmənəˈzeɪʃən, *Brit* ˌhɑːməˌnaɪˈzeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

har•mo•ny /ˈhɑəməni/ *noun, pl* **-nies**

1 : the combination of different musical notes played or sung at the same time to produce a pleasing sound [*noncount*] She taught him how to sing *harmony*. [=how to sing notes that combined with other notes in a pleasing way] — often used after *in* ▪ She taught him to sing *in harmony*. ▪ They sang *in* perfect *harmony*. [*count*] a song with complicated *harmonies* and rhythms

2 [*singular*] : a pleasing combination or arrangement of different things ▪ a *harmony* of flavors/colors ✧ When things are ***in harmony*** or when one thing is ***in harmony with*** something else, they go together well or they agree with each other very well. ▪ Every part was moving *in* perfect *harmony*. ▪ The two machines are linked and working *in harmony*. ▪ That principle is not *in harmony with* our ideals. ✧ When people are ***in harmony*** or ***in harmony with*** each other, they live together in a peaceful and friendly way. ▪ She lives *in harmony with* her neighbors. ✧ To bring something ***into harmony with*** something else is to change it so that it agrees with or matches something else. ▪ Our proposal has been revised to bring it *into harmony with* their requirements. ✧ When things are ***out of harmony*** or when one thing is ***out of harmony with*** something else, they do not agree or combine well. ▪ The modern furnishings seem *out of harmony with* the Victorian architecture. ▪ The governor's statement is totally *out of harmony with* the mayor's earlier comments.

[1]har•ness /ˈhɑəməs/ *noun, pl* **-ness•es** [*count*]

1 : a set of straps that are placed on an animal (such as a horse) so that it can pull something heavy

2 : a set of straps that are used to connect a person to something (such as a parachute or a seat) ▪ The pilot strapped himself into his *harness* before takeoff. ▪ a safety *harness*

in harness *Brit* : working at a job : on duty ▪ I was back *in harness* on Monday, handling paperwork at my desk.

[2]harness *verb* **-nesses**; **-nessed**; **-ness•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 a : to put a harness on (an animal) ▪ *harness* the horses **b** : to attach (an animal) to something with a harness ▪ The horses were *harnessed* to the wagon.

2 : to use (something) for a particular purpose ▪ Engineers are finding new ways to *harness* the sun's energy to heat homes. ▪ The company is *harnessing* technology to provide better service to its customers. ▪ They *harnessed* the power of the waterfall to create electricity. ▪ *harness* anger to fight injustice

3 : to connect or join (things) together ▪ She *harnessed* several computers (together) to work as one large computer.

harness racing *noun* [*noncount*] *US* : the sport of racing two-wheeled carts that are pulled by horses

[1]harp /ˈhɑəp/ *noun, pl* **harps** [*count*] : a musical instrument that has strings stretched across a large open frame and that is played with your fingers ▪ pluck/play a *harp* — see picture at STRINGED INSTRUMENT

– **harp•ist** /ˈhɑəpɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] ▪ a talented *harpist*

[2]harp *verb* **harps**; **harped**; **harp•ing**

harp at [*phrasal verb*] ***harp at (someone)*** *US, informal* : to tell (someone) constantly or repeatedly to do something ▪ My mother was always *harping at* me to clean my room.

harp on [*phrasal verb*] *US* ***harp on (something)*** *or Brit* ***harp on about (something)*** *informal* : to talk about (a subject) constantly or repeatedly in an annoying way ▪ She's always *harping on* the importance of a good diet. ▪ He seems to enjoy *harping on* my shortcomings.

har•poon /hɑəˈpuːn/ *noun, pl* **-poons** [*count*] : a long weapon used especially for hunting large fish or whales

– **harpoon** /hɑəˈpuːn/ *verb* **-poons**; **-pooned**; **-poon•ing** [+ *obj*] ▪ They *harpooned* the whale. [=killed the whale

with a harpoon] – **har•poon•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

harp•si•chord /ˈhɑɚpsɪˌkoɚd/ *noun, pl* **-chords** [*count*] : a musical instrument that is similar to a piano but with strings that are plucked rather than struck — see picture at KEYBOARD

– **harp•si•chord•ist** /ˈhɑɚpsɪˌkoɚdɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] ▪ a famous *harpsichordist*

har•py /ˈhɑɚpi/ *noun, pl* **-pies** [*count*]

1 ***Harpy*** : an evil creature in Greek mythology that is part woman and part bird

2 : an angry and unpleasant woman : SHREW

har•ri•dan /ˈherədən/ *noun, pl* **-dans** [*count*] *old-fashioned* + *literary* : an angry and unpleasant woman : HARPY, SHREW

har•ried /ˈherid/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : bothered by many problems or worries : very worried or anxious ▪ *harried* shoppers/travelers

har•ri•er /ˈherijɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a type of hawk

har•row•ing /ˈherowɪŋ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : very painful or upsetting ▪ She gives a *harrowing* account/description of her battle with cancer. ▪ They managed to escape after several *harrowing* encounters with the enemy. ▪ a *harrowing* ordeal/experience

– **har•row•ing•ly** *adv* ▪ a *harrowingly* honest description

har•rumph /həˈrʌmf/ *verb* **-rumphs**; **-rumphed**; **-rumph•ing** *informal* : to say (something) in a disapproving or complaining way — used to suggest that the person who is speaking is very serious, pompous, etc. [+ *obj*] "These charges are absurd," he *harrumphed*. [*no obj*] They stood around *harrumphing* about the current state of politics.

harsh /ˈhɑɚʃ/ *adj* **harsh•er**; **-est** [*also more* ~; *most* ~]

1 a : unpleasant and difficult to accept or experience ▪ The climate there is very *harsh*. ▪ We've had an extremely *harsh* winter. ▪ a *harsh* environment ▪ It's time for her to face the *harsh* realities of this situation. ▪ The accident serves as a *harsh* reminder of the importance of wearing a seat belt. **b** : having an unpleasant or harmful effect because of great strength or force : too intense or powerful ▪ *harsh* colors ▪ a *harsh* [=*shrill*] whistle/voice ▪ The lighting in the room was very *harsh*. ▪ *harsh* chemicals/detergents

2 a : severe or cruel : not kind ▪ *harsh* discipline ▪ a *harsh* disciplinarian ▪ The state has established *harsh* penalties for drug dealers. ▪ She has been criticized for her *harsh* treatment of his students. ▪ He was sentenced to a *harsh* prison term. **b** : very critical : strongly negative ▪ He had *harsh* words for his opponent. ▪ *harsh* language ▪ She has faced some extremely *harsh* criticism. ▪ He has been one of her *harshest* critics.

– **harsh•ly** *adv* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ She promised to deal *harshly* with all criminals. ▪ He treats his students *harshly*. ▪ The room was *harshly* lit. – **harsh•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

hart /ˈhɑɚt/ *noun, pl* **harts** [*count*] *chiefly Brit* : a male deer : STAG; *especially* : a male red deer — compare ²HIND

¹har•vest /ˈhɑɚvəst/ *noun, pl* **-vests** [*count*]

1 : the season when crops are gathered from the fields or the activity of gathering crops ▪ The beginning of the *harvest* varies from year to year. ▪ It is time for the *harvest*. ▪ *harvest* time

2 : the amount of crops that are gathered ▪ They prayed for a bountiful *harvest*. ▪ We had enormous *harvests* of corn this year.; *also* : the amount of a natural product gathered in a single season ▪ the salmon/timber *harvest* — sometimes used figuratively ▪ The government will reap a bitter *harvest* of discontent [=many people will be extremely unhappy and angry] if it fails to meet the people's needs.

²harvest /ˈhɑɚvəst/ *verb* **-vests**; **-vest•ed**; **-vest•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to gather (a crop) ▪ It is time to *harvest* the wheat.

2 : to gather or collect (something) for use ▪ They want to *harvest* timber in these woods. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ She has *harvested* the rewards/fruits of her labors.

har•vest•er /ˈhɑɚvəstɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

1 : a person who gathers crops or other natural products

2 : a large machine that is used for harvesting crops

harvest moon *noun* [*singular*] : the full moon in autumn

has see HAVE

has–been /ˈhæzˌbɪn/ *noun, pl* **-beens** [*count*] *informal* : a person who is no longer popular or successful ▪ They called him a washed-up old *has-been*. ▪ a famous child actor who had become a *has-been* at 25 — often used before another noun ▪ a *has-been* singer

¹hash /ˈhæʃ/ *verb* **hash•es**; **hashed**; **hash•ing**

hash out [*phrasal verb*] *US, informal* ***hash out (something)*** *or* ***hash (something) out*** **1** *or* ***hash over (something)*** *or* ***hash (something) over*** : to talk about (something) ▪ The detectives *hashed out* their theories about who committed the murder. ▪ They've spent quite a bit of time *hashing over* the problem. ▪ We need to sit down and *hash* things *out*. [=talk about things; discuss the situation] **2 a** : to find (a solution) by talking ▪ Their lawyers *hashed out* a resolution. **b** : to solve (a problem) by talking ▪ We were finally able to *hash out* our differences.

²hash *noun, pl* **hashes** [*count, noncount*] : a dish of chopped meat mixed with potatoes and baked or fried ▪ corned beef *hash*

make a hash of *informal* : to ruin (something) by making many mistakes ▪ He *made a hash* of the whole project!

– compare ³HASH, ⁴HASH

³hash *noun* [*noncount*] *informal* : HASHISH — compare ²HASH, ⁴HASH

⁴hash *noun, pl* **hashes** [*count*] *Brit* : ³POUND — compare ²HASH, ³HASH

hash browns *noun* [*plural*] : boiled potatoes that have been cut up, mixed with chopped onions and fat, and fried until brown — called also *hash brown potatoes, hashed brown potatoes, hashed browns*

hash•ish /ˈhæˌʃi:ʃ, hæˈʃi:ʃ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : an illegal drug that comes from the hemp plant and that is usually smoked or chewed

hash sign *noun, pl* ~ **signs** [*count*] *Brit* : ³POUND

hasn't /ˈhæznt/ — used as a contraction of *has not* ▪ The mail *hasn't* arrived yet.

hasp /ˈhæsp, *Brit* ˈhɑ:sp/ *noun, pl* **hasps** [*count*] : a device that is used to fasten a door, lid, etc. ✧ A hasp is a metal strap that fits over a metal loop and is held by a pin or lock.

¹has•sle /ˈhæsəl/ *verb* **has•sles**; **has•sled**; **has•sling** *informal*

1 [+ *obj*] : to bother or annoy (someone) constantly or repeatedly ▪ Other kids were always *hassling* her because she was overweight. ▪ I'm sick of being *hassled* by telemarketers.

2 [*no obj*] *US* : to argue or fight ▪ I don't have time to *hassle* with you about this! Just do what I tell you to do!

²hassle *noun, pl* **hassles** [*count*] *informal*

1 : something that is annoying or that causes trouble ▪ All this paperwork is a *hassle*. ▪ They've had to deal with flight delays and all of the other *hassles* of holiday travel. ▪ Cooking is too much of a *hassle* tonight. [=it is too much trouble; I do not have enough time, energy, etc., to do it]

2 *US* : a fight or argument ▪ He got into a *hassle* with his landlord.

has•sock /ˈhæsək/ *noun, pl* **-socks** [*count*]

1 : a cushion that you kneel on while praying

2 *US* : a cushion or soft stool that is used as a seat or for resting your feet ▪ a sofa and *hassock* [=(more commonly) *ottoman*]

haste /ˈheɪst/ *noun* [*noncount*] : speed of motion or action : quickness or eagerness that can result in mistakes ▪ The application had been approved with undue *haste*. — often used with *in* ▪ He left *in haste* [=*hurriedly, in a hurry*], so I didn't get a chance to talk to him. ▪ She sent the letter *in haste* and later regretted it. ▪ *In* their *haste* to leave for the airport, they forgot their passports.

haste makes waste *US* — used to say that doing something too quickly causes mistakes that result in time, effort, materials, etc., being wasted

make haste *old-fashioned* : to move, act, or go quickly : HURRY ▪ "You will be too late, if you do not *make haste*." —Jane Austen, *Persuasion* (1817)

has•ten /ˈheɪsn̩/ *verb* **has•tens**; **has•tened**; **has•ten•ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to cause (something) to happen more quickly ▪ A factory was built, *hastening* [=*accelerating*] the town's growth. ▪ His death was *hastened* by alcohol abuse.

2 [*no obj*] *old-fashioned* : to move or act quickly ▪ When she heard the baby crying, she *hastened* [=*hurried*] up the stairs.

hasten to add/say/explain (etc.) : to immediately say something in order to prevent confusion or misunderstanding ▪ The company announced that the initial tests look promising, but they *hastened to add* that there is still much more testing to be done. ▪ Let me *hasten to point out* that these changes will not affect our existing clients.

hasty /ˈheɪsti/ *adj* **hast•i•er**; **-est** [*also more* ~; *most* ~]

1 a : done or made very quickly ▪ I made a *hasty* sketch of the scene. ▪ Seeing the dog, the cat made/beat a *hasty* retreat up a tree. **b** : done or made too quickly ▪ We don't want to make any *hasty* decisions. ▪ a *hasty* marriage

2 : acting too quickly : RASH ▪ He later realized that he was

too *hasty* in his decision to quit.
– **hast•i•ly** /'heɪstəli/ *adv* ▪ She *hastily* gathered her things and left. ▪ a *hastily* made decision – **hast•i•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *hastiness* [=*haste*] of his decision

hat /'hæt/ *noun, pl* **hats** [*count*] : a covering for the head that often has a brim and a rounded or flat top ▪ a straw *hat* — see also COWBOY HAT, HARD HAT, TOP HAT

at the drop of a hat see ¹DROP

hang your hat ✧ The place where you *hang your hat* is the place where you live or stay. ▪ I'm looking for a new place to *hang my hat*.

hat in hand see ¹HAND

hats off to *informal* — used to give praise or credit to someone ▪ *Hats off to* Susan for doing such a great job.

I'll eat my hat see EAT

keep (something) under your hat : to keep (something) secret : to not tell anyone about (something) ▪ I'll tell you what happened, but you have to *keep it under your hat*.

pass the hat : to collect money usually for a particular purpose ▪ They *passed the hat* at one of their meetings and collected almost $200. ▪ *passing the hat* for families affected by the disaster

take your hat off to *informal* : to give (someone) praise or credit ▪ I (have to) *take my hat off to* her. She did a great job.

talk through your hat see ¹TALK

throw/toss your hat in/into the ring : to announce that you are going to try to win a contest (such as an election) ▪ Yet another candidate has *thrown his hat into the ring*.

tip your hat see ¹TIP

wear many hats : to have many jobs or roles ▪ She *wears many hats*: she's a doctor, a musician, and a writer.

– see also OLD HAT

hat•band /'hæt,bænd/ *noun, pl* **-bands** [*count*] : a decorative piece of cloth that goes around the base of some hats

hat•box /'hæt,bɑ:ks/ *noun, pl* **-box•es** [*count*] : a round container for storing or carrying hats

¹hatch /'hætʃ/ *noun, pl* **hatch•es** [*count*]

1 a : an opening in the deck of a ship or in the floor, wall, or roof of a building ▪ He squeezed into/through the *hatch* and crawled below deck. **b** : the covering of such an opening ▪ He lifted the *hatch*.

2 : a small door or opening in an airplane or spaceship — see also ESCAPE HATCH

batten down the hatches see ¹BATTEN

down the hatch *informal* ✧ If something goes *down the hatch*, you swallow it. ▪ a whiskey that goes *down the hatch* smoothly

²hatch *verb* **hatches; hatched; hatch•ing**

1 a [*no obj*] *of a bird, insect, fish, etc.* : to come out of an egg : to be born by coming out of an egg ▪ We watched the chicks *hatch*. **b** [+ *obj*] : to cause (a young bird, insect, fish, etc.) to come out of an egg — usually used as *(be) hatched* ▪ newly *hatched* chicks

2 a [*no obj*] *of an egg* : to break open as a young bird, insect, fish, etc., is born ▪ The eggs will soon *hatch*. **b** [+ *obj*] : to cause (an egg) to hatch ▪ a hen *hatching* her eggs

3 [+ *obj*] : to create or produce (something, such as an idea or a plan) usually in a secret way ▪ They *hatched* a plot to overthrow the government. ▪ *hatch* (up) a scheme

hatch•back /'hætʃ,bæk/ *noun, pl* **-backs** [*count*] : a door that opens upward on the back of a car; *also* : a car that has such a door — see picture at CAR

hatch•ery /'hætʃəri/ *noun, pl* **-eries** [*count*] : a place where people raise young chicken, fish, etc., from eggs ▪ a salmon *hatchery*

hatch•et /'hætʃət/ *noun, pl* **-ets** [*count*] : a small ax that has a short handle

bury the hatchet : to agree to stop arguing or fighting : to end a disagreement and become friendly ▪ After all these years, they've finally *buried the hatchet*.

hatchet job *noun, pl* ~ **jobs** [*count*] *informal* : a very harsh and unfair spoken or written attack ▪ The reviewers did a *hatchet job* on her latest book. [=the reviewers criticized her latest book very harshly or unfairly]

hatchet man *noun, pl* ~ **men** [*count*] : a person whose job is to do harsh and unpleasant things that other people do not want to do ▪ She doesn't criticize her opponent's character directly. She has her *hatchet men* in the media do it for her. ▪ He was fired by his boss's *hatchet man*.

hatch•ling /'hætʃlɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-lings** [*count*] : a recently hatched animal : a very young bird, fish, etc., that has just come out from an egg

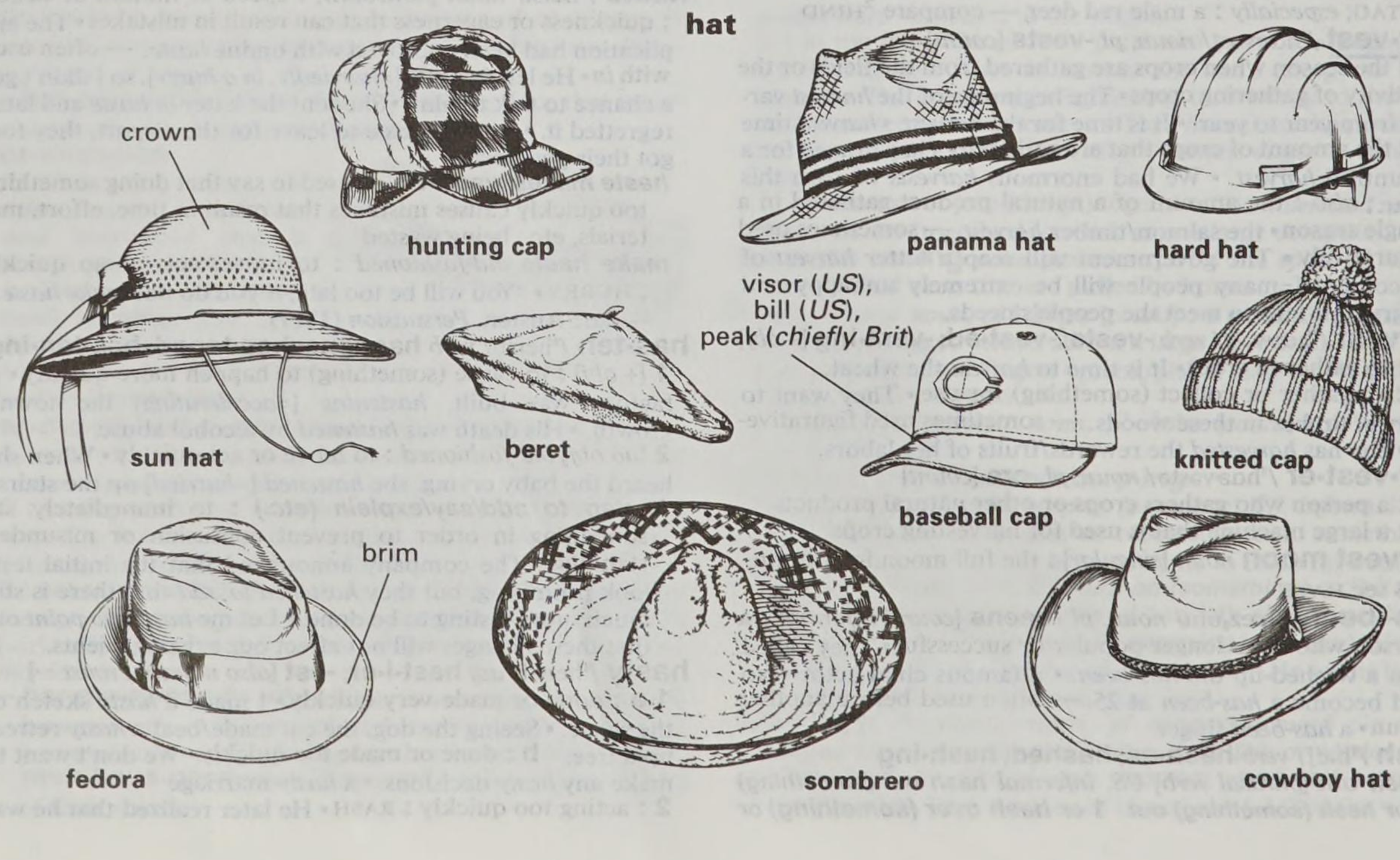
hatch•way /'hætʃ,weɪ/ *noun, pl* **-ways** [*count*] : an opening or passage into an enclosed space (such as a cellar or an attic)

¹hate /'heɪt/ *noun, pl* **hates** : a very strong feeling of dislike [*noncount*] You could see the *hate* [=*hatred*] in his eyes. ▪ These crimes are motivated by prejudice and *hate*. [*count*] They have been unable to overcome their *hates* and fears. — sometimes used before another noun ▪ The organization gets a lot of ***hate mail*** [=extremely angry letters, e-mail, etc.] from people who disagree with their policies. ▪ a ***hate crime*** [=a crime done against someone because of the person's race, religion, etc.] ▪ ***Hate speech*** [=speech expressing hatred of a particular group of people] is not allowed at school. — opposite LOVE

²hate *verb* **hates; hat•ed; hat•ing**

1 : to dislike (someone) very strongly : to feel hate for (someone) [+ *obj*] He was a cruel tyrant who was *hated* and feared by his people. ▪ She *hated* them for betraying her. ▪ They were political rivals who truly/bitterly *hated* each other. ▪ What is it that you *hate* about him most? ▪ a *hated* ene-

hat



my [*no obj*] children whose families have taught them to *hate* — opposite LOVE

2 [+ *obj*] : to dislike (something) very strongly : to find (something) very unpleasant ▪ She *hates* [=really dislikes] cold weather. ▪ I *hate* spinach. ▪ I *hate* doing this. ▪ I *hate* having to do this. = I *hate* it when I have to do this. ▪ They *hate* being apart from each other. ▪ I *hate* the idea of leaving my mother alone all week. ▪ She *hates* cooking. — often followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ They *hate to be* apart from each other. ▪ She *hates to cook*. — opposite LOVE

3 [+ *obj*] — used to apologize for doing something or to express regret or guilt ▪ I *hate* bothering you [=I'm sorry to bother you], but would you mind moving your car? ▪ I'd *hate* it if they got the wrong idea. [=I would feel regret if they misunderstood] — often followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ I *hate to bother* you [=I'm sorry to bother you], but would you mind moving your car? ▪ I *hate to say* it, but I don't think he has much chance of winning. ▪ I'd *hate* (for) them *to get* the wrong idea.

hate someone's guts see ¹GUT

– **hat•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ a cat *hater* [=a person who hates cats]

hate•ful /ˈheɪtfəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : very bad or evil : causing or deserving hate ▪ a *hateful* crime

2 : full of hate ▪ *hateful* enemies/people : showing hate ▪ *hateful* comments/words

– **hate•ful•ly** *adv* ▪ It's not clear if the comments were meant *hatefully* or not. – **hate•ful•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *hatefulness* of the crime

hat•mak•er /ˈhætˌmeɪkɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a person whose job is to make hats

hat•pin /ˈhætˌpɪn/ *noun, pl* **-pins** [*count*] : a kind of pin used especially in the past by women to fasten hats to their hair

ha•tred /ˈheɪtrəd/ *noun, pl* **-treds** : a very strong feeling of dislike : HATE [*noncount*] He had an irrational fear and *hatred* of foreigners. ▪ She makes no attempt to conceal her *hatred* for her opponents. ▪ This troubled city is filled with *hatred*, prejudice, crime, and fear. [*count*] The war was fueled by *hatreds* that were centuries old.

hat•ter /ˈhætɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*] : a person who makes, sells, or repairs hats

mad as a hatter *informal + old-fashioned* : severely mentally ill : CRAZY ▪ He's a nice fellow, but *mad as a hatter*.

hat trick *noun, pl* ~ **tricks** [*count*] : three goals scored by one player in a game of ice hockey, soccer, etc. ▪ score a *hat trick* — often used figuratively ▪ She scored a *hat trick* when her last three novels all won prizes.

haugh•ty /ˈhɑːti/ *adj* **haugh•ti•er**; **-est** : having or showing the insulting attitude of people who think that they are better, smarter, or more important than other people ▪ *haughty* [=*arrogant*] aristocrats ▪ He rejected their offer with a tone of *haughty* disdain. ▪ a *haughty* attitude

– **haugh•ti•ly** /ˈhɑːtəli/ *adv* ▪ *haughtily* disdainful – **haugh•ti•ness** /ˈhɑːtinəs/ *noun* [*noncount*]

¹haul /ˈhɑːl/ *verb* **hauls**; **hauled**; **haul•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* **a** : to pull or drag (something) with effort ▪ *Haul* the ropes in. = *Haul* in the ropes. ▪ They *hauled* the boat up onto the beach. ▪ The car was *hauled* away/off to the junkyard. **b** : to move or carry (something) with effort ▪ We used buckets to *haul* water up from the river. ▪ She *hauled* herself to her feet and limped home. ▪ I'm tired of *hauling* this heavy camera around with me.

2 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* : to force (someone) to go or come to a place ▪ The police caught him and *hauled* him (in) to the station. ▪ The prisoner was *hauled* away in handcuffs. ▪ They *hauled* her off to court/jail.

3 : to carry (someone or something) in a vehicle ▪ The cattle were *hauled* by rail. ▪ The company has a fleet of trucks that are used to *haul* freight.

haul ass *US, informal + impolite* : to move quickly ▪ You'd better *haul ass* or you'll miss your flight.

haul in [*phrasal verb*] ***haul in (something) or haul (something) in*** *US, sports* : to catch (a ball or pass) ▪ He *hauled in* a long touchdown pass.

haul off and *US, informal* : to suddenly do (something specified) — followed by a verb that expresses some kind of usually violent action ▪ She *hauled off and* punched him in the face.

haul on [*phrasal verb*] ***haul on (something)*** : to forcefully pull (something) ▪ *haul on* the reins

haul over the coals see COAL

– **haul•er** (*US*) /ˈhɑːlɚ/ *or Brit* **haul•i•er** /ˈhɑːlijɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ cattle *haulers*

²haul *noun, pl* **hauls** [*count*]

1 : the act of pulling or dragging something with effort : the act of hauling something ▪ each *haul* of the rope

2 : a usually large amount of something that has been stolen, collected, or won ▪ a burglar's *haul* ▪ Authorities seized the drugs in one of the biggest drug *hauls* in the history of the county. ▪ The kids always collect a substantial *haul* of candy on Halloween.

3 : a distance to be traveled ▪ It's just a short *haul* from our cabin to the beach. — see also LONG HAUL

haunch /ˈhɑːnʧ/ *noun, pl* **haunch•es** [*count*] : the upper part of a person's or animal's leg; *especially* : the upper part of an animal's rear leg used as meat ▪ a *haunch* of venison

on your haunches : sitting on or close to your heels with your knees bent ▪ The girl was sitting/squatting *on her haunches* in the sand, searching for shells.

¹haunt /ˈhɑːnt/ *verb* **haunts**; **haunt•ed**; **haunt•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 *of a ghost* : to visit or live in (a place) ▪ Spirits *haunted* the house. ▪ Some people believe that the ghost of an old sea captain *haunts* the beach.

2 : to eventually cause problems for (someone) as time passes ▪ If you ignore the problem, it will ***come back to haunt you***. ▪ Their failure to plan ahead is now *coming back to haunt them*.

3 : to keep coming back to the mind of (someone) especially in a way that makes the person sad or upset ▪ The tune *haunted* me all day. ▪ He was *haunted* by his memories of the war. [=he could not forget his memories of the war]

4 : to visit (a place) often ▪ She spent much of her vacation *haunting* bookstores and antique shops.

²haunt *noun, pl* **haunts** [*count*] : a place that you go to often ▪ The restaurant became one of her favorite *haunts*. ▪ I went back to visit my old childhood *haunts*. [=the places I often went to when I was a child]

haunted *adj*

1 : lived in or visited by ghosts ▪ Everyone says that the inn is *haunted*. ▪ a *haunted* house

2 : troubled or upset ▪ a mysterious young woman who always has a *haunted* expression on her face

haunting *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : sad or beautiful in a way that is difficult to forget ▪ The old prison camp is a *haunting* reminder of the country's dark past. ▪ the *haunting* sounds of the violin ▪ the *haunting* beauty of her voice

– **haunt•ing•ly** *adv* ▪ her *hauntingly* beautiful voice

haute cou•ture /ˌoʊtkuˈtuɚ, *Brit* ˌəʊtkuˈtjʊə/ *noun* [*noncount*] *somewhat formal* : the people and companies that create clothes that are very expensive and fashionable; *also* : the clothes they create ▪ a fashion designer who's a renowned master of *haute couture* ▪ celebrities wearing *haute couture* ▪ *haute couture* fashions/designers/models

haute cui•sine /ˌoʊtkwɪˈziːn/ *noun* [*singular*] : cooking that is done in a very skillful and complicated way

have /ˈhæv, əv; *in "have to" meaning "must" usually* ˈhæf/ *verb* **has** /ˈhæz, əz; *in "has to" meaning "must" usually* ˈhæs/; **had** /ˈhæd, əd/; **hav•ing** /ˈhævɪŋ/ ✧ For many senses of *have*, the phrase *have got* can also be used. Each sense, idiom, or phrasal verb below in which this phrase can occur includes the note "—also ***have got***." See "have got" (below) for more information.

1 *not used in progressive tenses* [+ *obj*] **a** : to own, use, or hold (something) ▪ Do they *have* a new car? ▪ You can *have* it until I get back. ▪ She *has* a red bike, and I *have* a blue one. ▪ She got another part-time job and now she *has* two jobs. ▪ I'm looking for the newspaper. Do you *have* it? ▪ He *had* the newspaper right in his hand. ▪ I used to *have* a necklace like that, but I lost it. ▪ She used to share a room with her sister, but now she *has* her own room. — also used for things that cannot be seen or touched ▪ Do you *have* an appointment? ▪ Do you *have* any experience in this line of work? [=have you done this kind of work before?] ▪ She *has* so many things that she wants to do. ▪ They *have* a deadline that must be met. — also ***have got*** ▪ *Have* they *got* a new car? ▪ She*'s got* two jobs. ▪ *Have* you *got* it? ▪ I*'ve got* an appointment. — see also MUST-HAVE **b** ✧ If you ***have (something) to do, finish (etc.)***, there is something that you must do or want to do in order to complete a task. ▪ We *have* things *to do*. = (*chiefly Brit*) We*'ve* things *to do*. ▪ I *have* several more pages *to read*. ▪ She *has* six more rows *to knit*. ▪ "But I *have* promises *to keep* . . ." —Robert Frost, "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" (1923) — also ***have got*** ▪ We*'ve got* things *to do*.

2 *not used in progressive tenses* [+ *obj*] — used to say that something is available or not available ▪ They *had* nothing to eat or drink, nothing to wear, and nowhere to live. ▪ We didn't want to do it, but we *had* no choice/alternative. ▪ You *have* a tremendous opportunity, and you should make the most of it. ▪ The group will *have* enough tickets for everyone. ▪ Do you *have* any spare change? ▪ Do you ***have a minute/moment/second***? [=are you available for a short time right now?] I have a few things I'd like to discuss with you. ▪ Give me a call when you ***have a few minutes/moments***. [=when you have a short period of time available] ▪ I don't ***have the time*** to talk right now. [=I am too busy to talk right now] — also ***have got*** ▪ I ***haven't got the time*** to talk right now. ▪ ***Have*** you ***got a minute/moment/second***? — see also HAVE THE TIME (below)

3 *not used in progressive tenses* [+ *obj*] — used to describe a quality, skill, feature, etc., of a person or thing ▪ She *has* an impressive knowledge of French. [=she knows French very well] ▪ He *has* a way with words. [=he uses words/language very effectively] ▪ She *has* a good outlook on life. ▪ The car *has* power brakes. ▪ That country *has* a king; this country *has* a president. ▪ All the children in that family *have* red hair. ▪ A man who *had* a foreign accent [=a man with a foreign accent] was asking to see you. ▪ The museum *has* interesting exhibits. ▪ I *have* a fear of spiders. [=I am afraid of spiders] — also ***have got*** ▪ He*'s got* a way with words. ▪ The car*'s got* power brakes.

4 *not used in progressive tenses* [+ *obj*] : to include or contain (something or someone) ▪ The list *has* my name on it. [=my name is on the list] ▪ April *has* 30 days. [=there are 30 days in April; April is a month with 30 days] ▪ The club *has* 100 members. — also ***have got*** ▪ The list *has got* my name on it. ▪ The club*'s got* 100 members.

5 [+ *obj*] **a** : to give birth to (a child) ▪ She *had* her first child when she was 25. ▪ She's going to be *having* another baby soon. **b** *not used in progressive tenses* : to be the parent of (a child) ▪ She and her husband *have* three children. ▪ They *have* a son. — also ***have got*** ▪ They*'ve got* a son and a daughter.

6 *not used in progressive tenses* [+ *obj*] — used to describe a relationship between people ▪ I *have* two sisters and a brother. ▪ She *has* many friends and few enemies. ▪ I wouldn't want to *have* him as an enemy. [=I wouldn't want him to be my enemy] ▪ Do you *have* a big family? [=is your family big?; are there many people in your family?] ▪ Does he *have* a girlfriend? ▪ They *have* [=*employ*] a housekeeper. ▪ We *have* many satisfied clients. ▪ I *have* a customer who comes in every Tuesday and orders a tuna sandwich. — also ***have got*** ▪ I*'ve got* two sisters and a brother.

7 *not used in progressive tenses* [+ *obj*] : to tightly hold (someone) ▪ The dog *has* him by the leg. [=the dog is tightly holding his leg in its mouth] ▪ She *had* me by the arm and wouldn't let go. — also ***have got*** ▪ The dog*'s got* him by the leg.

8 *not used in progressive tenses* [+ *obj*] : to get (something) ▪ Whenever she sees the latest new electronic gadget, she needs to *have* it. ▪ This piano is the best to be *had*. [=it is the best that can be bought or owned]

9 *not used in progressive tenses* [+ *obj*] : to receive or be given (something) ▪ We *had* some bad/good news yesterday. ▪ I *had* a letter from my cousin last week. ▪ "Waiter, can I *have* the check, please?" "I'll bring it right away." ▪ Could I please *have* your attention? [=would you please give me your attention?] ▪ Can I *have* a moment of your time? [=can I speak to you for a moment?]

10 *not used in progressive tenses* [+ *obj*] — used to describe the position of a person or thing ▪ He *had* his hands behind his back. [=his hands were behind his back] ▪ She *had* her back to the door and didn't see me enter the room. ▪ He *has* a bodyguard with/near him whenever he goes out in public. ▪ The house *has* a large tree next to it. [=there is a large tree next to the house] — also ***have got*** ▪ The house *has got* a large tree next to it.

11 [+ *obj*] : to cause or produce (something, such as an effect) ▪ The defeat *had* a terrible effect/impact on the team's spirits. ▪ Her decision might *have* serious consequences.

12 [+ *obj*] **a** : to experience (something) ▪ "Are you *having* fun?" "Yes, I'm *having* a wonderful time!" ▪ Everyone *had* a good time at the party. = A good time was *had* by all (at the party). ▪ She's *had* many strange things happen to her recently. = She's been *having* a lot of strange things happen to her recently. ▪ I've *had* a bad/tough/long day. ▪ I'm *having* trouble getting this computer to work. [=I am unable to get it to work] ▪ I've *had* a good life. ▪ We've *had* another setback. ▪ She *had* [=*suffered*] a heart attack at the age of 50. **b** *not used in progressive tenses* : to experience or be affected by (an illness or injury) ▪ I *have* a cold. ▪ My uncle *has* diabetes. ▪ She *has* a broken leg. — also ***have got*** ▪ I*'ve got* a cold. ▪ She*'s got* a broken leg. **c** : to experience (an emotion or feeling) ▪ I *have* many regrets. [=I regret many things] ▪ I *have* complete confidence in your abilities. = I don't *have* any doubts about your abilities. — also ***have got*** ▪ I*'ve got* many regrets. ▪ I *haven't got* any doubts about your abilities.

13 *not used in progressive tenses* [+ *obj*] — used to describe a person's thoughts, ideas, etc. ▪ Everyone *has* a different opinion about what to do. ▪ I *have* a few thoughts on the matter. ▪ "What time is it?" "***I have no idea***." = "***I've no idea***." [=I don't know] ▪ "Was it hard?" "***You have no idea*** (how hard it was)!" [=it was extremely hard] ▪ I ***don't have a clue***. = I ***haven't a clue***. [=I don't know] — also ***have got*** ▪ Everyone*'s got* a different opinion. ▪ I ***haven't got a clue***.

14 [+ *obj*] : to perform (an action) : to do or participate in (an activity) ▪ Did you *have* a good nap? ▪ I was *having* a nap [=I was napping] when a loud noise woke me up. ▪ We need to *have* a long talk. ▪ I *have* soccer practice every Tuesday. ▪ Please don't interrupt us when we are *having* a conversation. ▪ (*Brit*) *Have* a sleep/lie-down. ▪ (*Brit*) *Have* a think. ▪ ***Have a look*** at this. [=look at this] ▪ I *had a* (good) *look*, but I couldn't find the problem. ▪ Let me ***have a try***. [=let me try]

15 [+ *obj*] : to provide (something) as entertainment or as a social gathering ▪ We're *having* [=*giving, throwing*] a party on Saturday. Can you come? ▪ We're *having* a little get-together. ▪ The museum is *having* [=*holding*] an exhibition of her work. = She's *having* an exhibition of her work at the museum. [=the museum is exhibiting her work]

16 [+ *obj*] **a** : to cause, tell, or ask (someone) to do something ▪ *Have* her call me [=tell her to call me on the telephone] when she gets back. ▪ *Have* my assistant schedule another appointment for you. ▪ You should *have* someone check that out for you. ▪ She's *having* the children stay with us for the weekend. [=the children are staying with us for the weekend because she wants them to] ▪ He *had* the barber cut his hair short. [=he got the barber to cut his hair short] ▪ What would you *have* me do? [=what do you want me to do?] ▪ They ***would have us believe*** [=they want/expect us to believe] that all these problems can be fixed by raising taxes. **b** : to cause (something) to be changed, removed, added, or affected in a specified way ▪ I *had* my nose straightened by a plastic surgeon. ▪ He *had* his hair cut short by a barber. ▪ The doctor said I should *have* this mole removed. ▪ We are *having* new windows installed. ▪ I just *had* new tires put on the car. **c** — used when you hire someone to do something or when you go to a place (such as hospital or a mechanic's shop) so that something can be done ▪ She's *having* surgery next week. ▪ I *had* an X-ray. ▪ When was the last time you *had* a checkup? ▪ We're *having* some work done on the house. ▪ The car should *have* regular maintenance checks. [=someone should check the car regularly]

17 [+ *obj*] — used to say that someone (such as a guest or a worker) is at your home or is coming to your home ▪ We're *having* guests this weekend. ▪ I'd love to come for a visit, if you'll *have* me. [=if you would welcome me as a guest] ▪ We're going to *have* a plumber in to look at the furnace. ▪ She *has* guests to/for dinner several times a week. ▪ I *had* my friends back to my place for drinks after the movie. — see also HAVE OVER (below)

18 *not used in progressive tenses* [+ *obj*] **a** : to cause (something) to be in a specified state or condition ▪ He *had* dinner ready by the time she came back. ▪ It's hard to think when she *has* the radio on so loud. ▪ He *had* the computer working again very quickly. ▪ Please *have* your assignment ready/done/finished/completed by tomorrow. — also ***have got*** ▪ She*'s got* the radio on so loud. ▪ *Have* you *got* your assignment ready? [=is your assignment ready?] **b** — used when something that belongs to someone or something is damaged, destroyed, or taken ▪ I *had* [=*got*] my nose broken in a fight. [=my nose was broken in a fight] ▪ She *had* her car stolen last week. [=her car was stolen last week] ▪ The house *had* its roof torn off in the hurricane.

19 [+ *obj*] : to allow (something) — used in negative statements ▪ We'll *have* no more of that behavior! = We can't *have* that sort of behavior! = We can't *have* you behaving like that! = We can't be *having* you behave like that!

20 *not used in progressive tenses* [+ *obj*] : to accept (someone) ▪ Who will we *have* as our leader?; *specifically* : to accept (someone) as a husband or wife ▪ I'll marry her if she'll *have* me! ▪ She wouldn't *have* him.

21 a *not used in progressive tenses* [+ *obj*] : to be able to con-

trol, capture, or defeat (someone) ▪ We *have* him now! He can't possibly escape! — also ***have got*** ▪ We*'ve got* him now! **b** ✧ The phrases ***You have me there*** and ***There you have me*** or (more commonly and informally) ***You've/You got me (there)*** are used in speech to mean "I don't know." ▪ "How on earth can he justify his behavior?" "*You have me there.*" ▪ "When exactly was the company founded?" "*There you have me.*" ▪ "Why did she leave?" "*You got me.*" The phrase *You got me* is sometimes shortened to ***Got me*** in very informal speech. ▪ "When does the movie start?" "*Got me.*"

22 [+ *obj*] **a :** to eat or drink (something) ▪ We *had* steak for dinner last night. ▪ We'll be *having* [=*eating*] dinner at six. ▪ Will you *have* a drink with me? ▪ Would you like to *have* some black pepper on your salad? ▪ "What will you *have* (to drink)?" "(I'll *have*) A glass of red wine, please." ▪ Did you *have* dessert yet? ▪ *Have* some cake. It's delicious! **b :** to smoke (something) ▪ She *had* a cigarette while she was waiting for the bus. **c** — used to say how you want food or drink to be cooked or prepared ▪ I'd like to *have* my steak well done, please. ▪ I usually *have* [=*take*] my coffee black.

23 *not used in progressive tenses* [+ *obj*] *informal* **:** to have sex with (someone) ▪ He claims that he's *had* dozens of women.

24 [*auxiliary verb*] — used with the past participle to form the perfect tenses of verbs ▪ We *have* been friends for many years. ▪ She *has* bought a new car. ▪ They *had* already left by the time we arrived. ▪ I *have* not seen that movie yet. ▪ *Has* the rain stopped? ▪ I *have* never been so embarrassed! = Never *have* I been so embarrassed! ▪ *Having* never been to Chicago, I really don't know much about it.

> ***usage*** When *have* is used as an auxiliary verb, the shortened forms ***'ve*** for ***have***, ***'s*** for ***has***, and ***'d*** for ***had*** are common in informal writing and usual in speech. ▪ I*'ve* already seen that movie. ▪ I*'ve* never been so embarrassed! ▪ We*'ve* been friends for years. ▪ She*'s* bought a new car. ▪ They*'d* already left by the time we arrived. The negative forms ***haven't***, ***hasn't***, and ***hadn't*** are also common in informal writing and usual in speech. ▪ I *haven't* seen that movie yet. ▪ *Hasn't* the rain stopped? ▪ We *hadn't* arrived yet when they left.

be had **:** to be tricked or fooled by someone ▪ She doesn't want to buy a used car because she's worried about *being had* by a dishonest salesman. ▪ I don't trust them. I think we've *been had*. [=I think they have tricked us]

have against [*phrasal verb*] ***have (something) against (someone or something)*** **:** to have (something) as a reason for not liking (someone or something) ▪ She *has* a grudge *against* her former boss. ▪ What *do you have against* him? [=why do you dislike him?] ▪ I ***have nothing against*** her personally—it's her friends I don't like. — also ***have got*** ▪ She*'s got* a grudge *against* her former boss. ▪ What *have* you *got against* him?

have back [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***have (something) back*** **:** to receive (something that is returned to you) ▪ If I lend you this book, can I *have* it *back* by next Tuesday? ▪ How I wish I could *have* my youth *back* (again)! **2** ***have (someone) back*** **a :** to be with (someone who has returned) again ▪ Welcome home! It's great to *have* you *back* (with us again)! ▪ We'd love to *have* you *back* for another visit. ▪ He longs to *have* her *back* in his life. ▪ The doctor said he'd like to *have* me *back* for more tests next week. **b :** to allow (someone) to return ▪ He wants to return to his wife, but she won't *have* him *back*.

have done with *old-fashioned* **:** to stop doing (something) **:** to bring (something) to an end ▪ Let us *have done with* name-calling.

have got **:** HAVE

> ***usage*** Examples of *have got* are shown above and below for each sense, idiom, and phrasal verb in which it occurs. Note that *have got* is used only in the present tense. It is common in place of *have* in informal writing, and it is usual in ordinary speech. The contracted forms ***'s*** for ***has*** and ***'ve*** for ***have*** are commonly used for the first part of this phrase. ▪ He *has* it. = He *has got* it. = (more commonly) He*'s got* it. ▪ We *have* to go. = We *have got* to go. = (more commonly) We*'ve got* to go. The usual negative forms of *have got* are ***haven't got*** and ***hasn't got***. ▪ We do not *have* it. = We *have* not *got* it. = (more commonly) We *haven't got* it. ▪ She doesn't *have* a chance. = She *hasn't got* a chance.

have had it *informal* **1 a :** to be too old or damaged to be used ▪ We need a new stove. This one *has had it*. ▪ My old dictionary *has* just about *had it*. Time to get a new one. **b :** to be so tired or annoyed that you will no longer allow or accept something ▪ That's it. I*'ve had it*. I won't pay these kinds of fees any more. ▪ I've been working all day and I*'ve had it*. **c :** to be angry about something that has continued for a long time ▪ I*'ve had it* (up to here) with all these delays! [=I am fed up with all these delays; I am very annoyed by all these delays] **2 :** to be completely ruined or defeated ▪ After this scandal, he*'s had it* as a politician. [=he will no longer be able to be a politician] ▪ His political career *has had it*. [=his political career is finished/ruined]

have it **1** — used to say that what is being reported is a rumor, a story, etc. ▪ ***Rumor/word has it*** [=a rumor says] that the company will be going out of business. ▪ ***Legend has it*** [=*according to legend*] George Washington slept here. **2** — used to describe a person's condition or situation ▪ He's *had it* pretty tough since his wife died. [=his life has been difficult since his wife died] ▪ You've never *had it* so good (as you *have it* now)! ▪ We *have it* pretty good right now. — also ***have got*** ▪ We*'ve got* it pretty good right now.

have it in for **:** to want to hurt or cause problems for (someone you do not like) ▪ She's *had it in for* me for a long time. — also ***have got*** ▪ She*'s got it in for* me.

have it in you **:** to have the ability to do something ▪ His last performance was wonderful; I didn't know he *had it in him*! [=I didn't know he was capable of such a performance] ▪ I don't think she *has it in her* to be cruel. [=I don't think she's capable of being cruel] — also ***have got*** ▪ I don't think she*'s got it in her* to be cruel.

have it out **:** to settle a disagreement by talking or arguing ▪ If you don't like the way he's treated you, you should *have it out* with him instead of just brooding about it.

have mercy/pity **:** to treat someone with mercy or pity ▪ The prisoner begged the judge to *have mercy*. — usually + *on* ▪ The prisoner begged the judge to *have mercy on* him.

have on [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***have (something) on*** *or* ***have on (something)*** **:** to be wearing (something) ▪ She *has on* a new suit. ▪ He ***had nothing on***. [=he was naked] — also ***have got*** ▪ She*'s got on* a new suit. **2** ***have (something) on (you)*** *informal* **:** to be carrying (something) ▪ Do you *have* any spare change *on* you? ▪ I don't *have* my wallet *on* me: I left it at home. — also ***have got*** ▪ *Have* you *got* any spare change *on* you? **3** ***have (something) on*** **:** to keep (a device or machine) operating ▪ They *have* the radio *on* all the time. **4** ***have (something) on*** *chiefly Brit* **:** to have plans for (something) ▪ Do you *have* anything *on* for tomorrow? [=do you have any plans for tomorrow?] ▪ What do you *have on* for tomorrow? [=what are your plans for tomorrow?] — also ***have got*** ▪ *Have* you *got* anything *on* for tomorrow? **5** ***have (someone) on*** *Brit, informal* **:** to trick or fool (someone) in a joking way — usually used as ***(be) having (someone) on*** ▪ He said he knew the Prime Minister, but I think he *was* just *having* me *on*. [=he was joking; he was just putting me on] **6** ***have nothing on (someone)*** *or* ***not have anything on (someone)*** **:** to have no evidence showing that someone has committed a crime or done something bad ▪ The police were suspicious, but they *had nothing on* her. ▪ If the police *don't have anything on* you, they have to let you go. — also ***have got*** ▪ They *haven't got anything on* me. ▪ They*'ve got nothing on* me. **7** ***have nothing on (someone or something)*** **:** to have less of a particular quality than (someone or something) ▪ The winters here are bad, but they *have nothing on* the winters I remember when I was a child. [=they are not as bad as the winters I remember; the winters I remember were worse] ▪ He says Houston *has nothing on* Chicago [=Houston is not as good as Chicago] when it comes to fine restaurants. — also ***have got*** ▪ Houston*'s got nothing on* Chicago.

have over [*phrasal verb*] ***have (someone) over*** — used to say that someone is coming to your home as a guest ▪ We're *having* some friends *over* for dinner tonight. — see also HAVE 17 (above)

have (someone or something) (all) to yourself **:** to be in a situation in which you are not required to share someone or something with anyone else ▪ We *have the entire evening to ourselves*. [=we have no plans to do anything with anyone else this evening] ▪ She *has the house all to herself* this weekend. [=she is the only one staying in the house this weekend] ▪ I'm happy to *have you to myself* tonight; it will give us a chance to talk privately.

have the time ✧ If someone asks you if you *have the time*, that person is asking if you know what time it is. ▪ "Do you *have the time*?" [=can you tell me what time it is?] "Yes, it's

10 minutes past 3." — also ***have got*** • *Have* you *got* the time? — see also HAVE 2 (above)

have to : MUST: such as **a** — used to say that something is required or necessary • You *have to* follow the rules. • You *have to* stop. [=you must stop; I command you to stop] • I told him what he *had to* do. [=what he must do] • We *have to* correct these problems soon or the project will fail. • I *have to* remember to stop at the store. • "Do you *have to* go?" "Yes, I'm afraid I really *have to*." • If you *have to* go, at least wait until the storm is over. • Do what you *have to* (do). • I didn't want to do it but I *had to*. — also ***have got to*** • You*'ve got to* stop. • I*'ve got to* go now. ✧ Note the difference in meaning between ***not have to*** and ***must not***. • You *don't have to* do it. [=it is not necessary for you to do it] • You *must not* do it. [=you are not allowed to do it; you are forbidden to do it] **b** — used to say that something is required by a rule or law • All passengers *have to* exit at the next stop. — also ***have got to*** • All passengers *have got to* exit at the next stop. **c** — used to say that something is desired or should be done • You *have to* read this book. It's fantastic! • You *have to* come visit us soon. [=we would like to have you visit us soon] • You really *have to* see the doctor about that cough. [=I urge you to see the doctor; I really think you need to see the doctor] — also ***have got to*** • You*'ve got to* come visit us soon. **d** — used to say that something is very likely • It *has to* be close to noon. • She *has to* be the most beautiful woman I've ever seen. [=I think she is the most beautiful woman I've ever seen] • He *has to* have a lot of money to live the way he does. • The bus *has to* be coming soon. • There *has to* be some mistake. — also ***have got to*** • It*'s got to* be close to noon. • There*'s got to* be some mistake. **e** — used in various spoken phrases to emphasize a statement • ***I have to say***, I was surprised to hear from him. • She's a talented actress, ***you have to admit***. • ***I have to admit***, I expected better results. • ***It has to be said*** that the movie was not very good. • ***I have to warn you***, this will not be easy. — also ***have got to*** • ***I've got to say***, I was surprised to hear from him. • She's a talented actress, ***you've got to admit***. **f** — used in questions or statements that express annoyance or anger • Do you *have to* be so unreasonable? • Why does it always *have to* rain on the weekend? • Naturally it *has to* rain on the day when we planned a picnic. — also ***have got to*** • It*'s got to* rain on the day when we planned a picnic.

have to do with see ¹DO

have with [*phrasal verb*] **1 *have (someone) with (you)*** : to be with (someone) • They *had* their grandchildren *with* them when they arrived. [=they arrived with their grandchildren] **2 *have (something) with (you)*** : to be carrying (something) with (you) • I don't *have* my wallet *with* me.

I have it — used to say that you suddenly remember, understand, or have found something; usually ***I've got it*** • Now, what was his name? Tony? Tom? No, *I've got it*! Tim. His name was Tim.

I'll have you know — used to emphasize something in a somewhat annoyed or angry way • "Did your son go to college?" "Did he go to college? *I'll have you know* that he was given a full scholarship to Harvard!"

there you have it — used to say that something has just been shown, described, or stated in a very clear and definite way • "But we can't spend more money unless we have more money to spend!" "Precisely. *There you have it*."

what have you see ¹WHAT

you had to be there — used to say that people cannot understand something because they did not experience it or see it themselves • I know it sounds weird, but it was so funny. I guess *you had to be there*.

ha•ven /ˈheɪvən/ *noun, pl* **-vens** [*count*] : a place where you are protected from danger, trouble, etc. • The shelter offers/provides a *haven* from abusive spouses. • The inn is a *haven* for weary travelers. • This national park provides a ***safe haven*** for wildlife. — see also TAX HAVEN

have–nots /ˈhævˌnɑːts/ *noun*

the have-nots : people who have little money and few possessions : poor people — usually used in the phrase ***the haves and the have-nots*** • the gap between *the haves and the have-nots* [=between rich people and poor people]

haven't /ˈhævənt/ — used as a contraction of *have not* • We *haven't* tried the new restaurant yet.

haves /ˈhævz/ *noun*

the haves : people who have a lot of money and possessions : wealthy people — usually used in the phrase ***the haves and the have-nots*** • the gap between *the haves and the have-nots* [=between rich people and poor people]

hav•oc /ˈhævək/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a situation in which there is much destruction or confusion • the *havoc* of war • A powerful tornado ***wreaked havoc*** on [=caused great destruction to] the small village. • The disease can ***play havoc*** with the body's immune system. • Several small children can ***create/cause havoc*** in a house.

haw /ˈhɑː/ *verb* **haws; hawed; haw•ing**

hem and haw see ³HEM

¹hawk /ˈhɑːk/ *noun, pl* **hawks** [*count*]

1 : a bird that kills other birds and animals for food — see color picture on page C9

2 : a person who supports war or the use of military force • The *hawks* voted against the proposed cuts in military spending. — compare DOVE

watch (someone or something) like a hawk : to watch (someone or something) very carefully • The storeowner *watches those teenagers like a hawk* whenever they come in because she's afraid they're going to steal something.

– **hawk•ish** /ˈhɑːkɪʃ/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] • a *hawkish* politician

²hawk *verb* **hawks; hawked; hawk•ing** [+ *obj*] : to offer (something) for sale especially by calling out or by going from one person to another : PEDDLE • Vendors were *hawking* soda and hot dogs. • *hawking* newspapers — compare ³HAWK

– **hawk•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] • a newspaper *hawker*

³hawk *verb* **hawks; hawked; hawking** [+ *obj*] : to clear (material) from your throat by coughing, making a noise with your voice, etc. — usually + *up* • *hawking up* phlegm — compare ²HAWK

haw•ser /ˈhɑːzɚ/ *noun, pl* **-sers** [*count*] *technical* : a very thick rope or cable for towing or tying up a ship

haw•thorn /ˈhɑːˌθoɚn/ *noun, pl* **-thorns** [*count*] : a type of bush or small tree with white or pink flowers and small red fruits

hay /ˈheɪ/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : grass that has been cut and dried to be used as food for animals • a bale of *hay*

2 *US, informal* : a small amount of money — usually used in negative statements • They made over a million dollars last year, and that ***ain't hay***! [=that is a lot of money]

a roll in the hay see ³ROLL

hit the hay see ¹HIT

make hay (while the sun shines) : to get value or use from an opportunity while it exists : to not waste an opportunity • These good economic conditions won't last forever, so investors need to *make hay while the sun shines*.

hay fever *noun* [*singular*] *medical* : a sickness that is like a cold and that is caused by breathing in plant pollen

hay•field /ˈheɪˌfiːld/ *noun, pl* **-fields** [*count*] : a field where grass is grown for hay

hay•loft /ˈheɪˌlɑːft/ *noun, pl* **-lofts** [*count*] : the upper part of a barn where hay is stored

hay•mak•er /ˈheɪˌmeɪkɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *chiefly US, informal* : a powerful hit with the fist : a very hard punch • He was knocked down by a *haymaker* to his jaw. • throw/deliver a *haymaker*

hay•rick /ˈheɪˌrɪk/ *noun, pl* **-ricks** [*count*] *chiefly Brit* : HAYSTACK

hay•ride /ˈheɪˌraɪd/ *noun, pl* **-rides** [*count*] *US* : an informal event in which a group of people ride for pleasure in a wagon, sleigh, or open truck that is partly filled with straw or hay

hay•stack /ˈheɪˌstæk/ *noun, pl* **-stacks** [*count*] : a large pile of hay

a needle in a haystack see ¹NEEDLE

hay•wire /ˈheɪˌwajɚ/ *adj, informal* : not working properly • a *haywire* immune system — usually used in the phrase ***go haywire*** • The disease has caused her immune system to *go haywire*. [=to stop working properly] • The old radio *went haywire*. • The stock market has *gone* completely *haywire*.

¹haz•ard /ˈhæzɚd/ *noun, pl* **-ards**

1 [*count*] : a source of danger • Young people should be educated about the *hazards* of excessive drinking. [=about how drinking too much alcohol is harmful] • That old staircase is a safety *hazard*. [=it is dangerous; someone could get hurt by using it] • a fire *hazard* [=something that could cause a fire] • a health *hazard* = a *hazard* to your health [=something that could make you sick] • Hand injuries are an ***occupational***

hazard for typists. [=typists are likely to have hand injuries because of the work they do] ▪ a ***traffic hazard*** [=something that could cause an accident involving a car, bicycle, etc.]

2 [*count*] *golf* : something on a golf course (such as a pond or an area of sand) that makes hitting the ball into the hole more difficult ▪ a water *hazard*

3 *hazards* [*plural*] : HAZARD LIGHTS

²hazard *verb* **-ards; -ard•ed; -ard•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to risk losing (something, such as money) in an attempt to get, win, or achieve something ▪ His friend asked him to *hazard* a small sum in a business venture.

2 : to offer (something, such as a guess or an opinion) even though you may be wrong ▪ She was unwilling to *hazard* [=*venture*] a guess as to the outcome of the election. ▪ *hazard* an opinion

hazard lights *noun* [*plural*] : special lights on a vehicle that flash on and off and are used to warn other drivers of a dangerous situation (such as when the vehicle is not working properly) — called also *hazards*

haz•ard•ous /ˈhæzədəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : involving risk or danger : DANGEROUS ▪ It was a *hazardous* voyage. ▪ These are *hazardous* chemicals that can cause death if inhaled. ▪ *hazardous* driving habits — sometimes + *to* ▪ Smoking can be *hazardous to* your health.

– **haz•ard•ous•ly** *adv*

hazard pay *noun* [*noncount*] *US* : extra money that someone is paid for doing work that is dangerous — called also (*US*) *danger pay*, (*Brit*) *danger money*

haze /ˈheɪz/ *noun* [*singular*]

1 : dust, smoke, or mist that has filled the air so that you cannot see clearly ▪ The bar was filled with a smoky *haze*. ▪ a *haze* of smoke

2 : a state of confusion ▪ She stumbled around in a drug-induced *haze*.

– **hazed** /ˈheɪzd/ *adj* ▪ the pale, *hazed* sky — usually used in combination ▪ the smoke-*hazed* sky/bar ▪ a drug-*hazed* state

ha•zel /ˈheɪzəl/ *noun, pl* **-zels**

1 [*count*] : a kind of bush or small tree that produces nuts

2 [*count, noncount*] : a color that combines light brown with green and gray

– see also WITCH HAZEL

– **hazel** *adj* ▪ *hazel* eyes

ha•zel•nut /ˈheɪzəlˌnʌt/ *noun, pl* **-nuts** [*count*] : the nut of a hazel — called also (*US*) *filbert*; see picture at NUT

haz•ing /ˈheɪzɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] *US* : the practice of playing unpleasant tricks on someone or forcing someone to do unpleasant things ✧ *Hazing* is done as part of a ritual that people (such as college students) must go through before they are allowed to become members of a group (such as a fraternity).

– **haze** /ˈheɪz/ *verb* **haz•es; hazing; hazed** [+ *obj*] ▪ Varsity team members *hazed* the new players by leading them around campus on leashes.

hazy /ˈheɪzi/ *adj* **haz•i•er; -est**

1 : partly hidden, darkened, or clouded by dust, smoke, or mist : hidden by haze ▪ We had only a *hazy* view of the mountain. ▪ *hazy* sunshine; *also* : having or filled with haze ▪ *hazy* weather

2 a : not clear in thought or meaning : VAGUE ▪ He gave us a *hazy* account of how he had spent the last two weeks. ▪ She has only *hazy* memories of the accident. **b** : not certain ▪ I'm a little *hazy* [=*unclear*] on/about the details.

– **haz•i•ly** /ˈheɪzəli/ *adv* ▪ *hazily* remembered – **haz•i•ness** /ˈheɪzinəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *haziness* of the view/memories

H–bomb /ˈeɪtʃˌbɑ:m/ *noun, pl* **-bombs** [*count*] : HYDROGEN BOMB

HDTV *abbr* high-definition television

¹he /ˈhi:, i/ *pronoun*

1 : that male — used to indicate a male person or animal that is the subject of a verb ▪ *He* is my father. ▪ Ask your brother where *he* is going. ▪ *He* has been planning this trip since January. ▪ (*on the telephone*) "Hello, I'd like to speak with Jim." "This is *he*." [=I (the person who answered the phone) am Jim] — compare SHE

2 : that person — used in a general sense or when the sex of the person is unknown ▪ Everyone should do the best *he* can. ▪ Tell whoever is in there that *he* had better come out. ▪ *He* who laughs last, laughs best. ✧ This use of *he* was common in the past but is now often avoided because it is considered sexist.

²he /ˈhi:/ *noun* [*singular*] : a boy, man, or male animal ▪ "Somebody called when you were out, but I can't remember who." "Was it a *he* or a she?" — sometimes used in combination ▪ a *he*-goat

¹head /ˈhɛd/ *noun, pl* **heads** *or in sense 7* **head**

1 [*count*] : the part of the body containing the brain, eyes, ears, nose, and mouth ▪ She patted the dog on the *head*. ▪ He nodded his *head* in agreement. ▪ The ceiling's low—watch your *head*! ▪ *head* injuries ▪ They were covered ***from head to foot/toe*** in mud. [=they were completely covered in mud] ▪ He has a ***full head of hair***. [=he has a full amount of hair on his head] — see picture at HUMAN; see also TALKING HEAD

2 [*count*] : a person's mental ability : mind or intellect ▪ You shouldn't let your heart rule your *head*. [=you should be guided by reason and not by your emotions] ▪ She did some quick calculations ***in her head***. [=without writing anything; mentally] ▪ I keep hearing that song *in my head*. = That song keeps running through my *head*. = I can't get that song ***out of my head***. ▪ It never even ***entered my head*** to run for office. [=I never thought of running for office] ▪ The problem is ***all in his head***. [=the problem is not real; he's just imagining it] ▪ Don't go ***putting ideas in/into his head***. [=don't cause him to have ideas or suspicions that he would not have himself] ▪ You should ***put that idea out of your head***. [=you should stop thinking about that idea] ▪ She always says the first thing that ***comes/pops into her head***. [=the first thing that she thinks of] ▪ I'm sure we can solve this problem if we just ***use our heads***. [=think carefully] ▪ That guy should ***have his head examined***. = That guy is ***not right in the head***. [=that guy is crazy] ▪ You need a ***cool/calm head*** [=an ability to remain calm] to deal with someone like him. ▪ a ***clear head*** [=an ability to think clearly] ✧ If you have ***a good head on your shoulders***, you are intelligent and have good judgment. ▪ You don't have to worry about her—she's got *a good head on her shoulders*. ✧ When you ***get/take it into your head*** to do something, you suddenly decide to do it in a way that seems foolish or surprising. ▪ He's *taken it into his head* to try skydiving. ▪ I somehow *got it into my head* to run for public office. ✧ If you ***get it into your head*** that something is true, you begin to believe something even though there is no good reason for believing it. ▪ She's somehow *gotten it into her head* that I don't like her. [=she believes that I don't like her although I do like her]

3 [*count*] : a person who has a specified mental or emotional quality ▪ A fight was avoided when ***cooler heads prevailed***. [=when calmer or less angry people were able to convince others not to fight] — see also HOTHEAD, SOREHEAD

4 [*singular*] : a distance equal to the length of a head ▪ The horse won the race by a *head*. ▪ I'm a *head* taller than you.

5 [*count*] : the front side of a coin : the side of a coin that shows a picture of a person's head ▪ the *head* of a penny — usually used in the plural to refer to one of the two choices you can make when a coin is thrown in the air to decide something ▪ I call *heads*. ▪ Is it *heads* or tails? [=did the coin land with heads or tails facing up?] ▪ It landed *heads* up. — compare ¹TAIL 3

6 *head* [*plural*] : individual animals ▪ 100 *head* of cattle

7 [*count*] **a** : an end of something that is like a head in shape or position — usually singular; often + *of* ▪ She placed the pillows at the *head of* the bed. ▪ We arrived early so that we'd be at the *head* [=*front*] *of* the line. ▪ The chairman sat at the *head of* the table. ▪ the *head* [=*top*] *of* a nail/pin/screw — compare FOOT **b** : the part of an object that hits or touches something else ▪ a grinding *head* ▪ the hammer's *head* — often + *of* ▪ the *head of* a spear ▪ the *head of* a golf club — see also ARROWHEAD, SPEARHEAD, WARHEAD

8 [*noncount*] : the position of being a leader ▪ She's ***at the head of*** her class. [=she is the best student in her class]

9 [*count*] **a** : a person who leads or directs a group or organization ▪ Have you met the new department *head*? — often + *of* ▪ She is the *head of* our sales division. ▪ *heads of* families/households ▪ ***heads of state*** [=leaders of countries] — often used before another noun ▪ the restaurant's *head* cook ▪ the team's *head* coach **b** *chiefly Brit* : HEAD TEACHER

10 [*count*] : a tight mass of leaves or flowers on a plant ▪ The flower *heads* on the plant are very large. ▪ a *head* of cabbage/lettuce ▪ a *head of* garlic

11 [*count*] : the place where a stream or river begins — usually singular ▪ the *head* of the Nile

12 [*singular*] : pressure caused by the water or steam in a machine ✧ When an engine has a ***full head of steam***, it has built up a full amount of power. This phrase is often used figuratively to describe something that is moving forward in a fast and powerful way. ▪ The project started slowly, but

H

now we have a *full head of steam*.

13 [*count*] : the bubbles that form on the top of some liquids (such as beer) — usually singular ▪ the foamy *head* on a beer

14 [*singular*] : the point at which a situation becomes very serious or when action is required ▪ Things ***came to a head*** when the workers threatened to go on strike. ▪ These new revelations ***brought*** the scandal ***to a head***.

15 [*count*] : a small, inflamed area on the skin with a spot in the middle — see also BLACKHEAD

a big/swelled head *informal* : an overly high opinion of yourself ▪ All those compliments have given him a *big head*. [=have made him very conceited]

a head : for each person ▪ The price is $20 *a head*.

a price on someone's head see ¹PRICE

bang heads together see ¹BANG

bite someone's head off see ¹BITE

butt heads see ³BUTT

count heads see ¹COUNT

eyes in the back of your head see ¹EYE

get it through someone's head : to cause someone to learn and remember something ▪ She's finally *gotten it through their heads* that she doesn't eat meat.

get it through your head : to accept or understand (something) ▪ He can't seem to *get it through his head* that I'm not interested in working with him.

get your head round *Brit* : to understand (something) ▪ She couldn't *get her head round* why he had to leave.

go over someone's head : to discuss something with a person who is higher in rank than someone else ▪ He *went over his supervisor's head* to complain about the policy to the company's president. [=he complained about the policy to the company's president rather than his supervisor]

go to your head **1** *of an alcoholic drink* : to make you feel drunk ▪ I just had one glass of wine, but it ***went straight to my head*** **2** : to make you believe that you are better than other people ▪ He has never let his fame *go to his head*.

have a head for : to have an ability to understand or deal with (something) ▪ She's always *had a* (good) *head for* business. ▪ (*Brit*) He ***has a head for heights*** [=he is not afraid of heights; being up high does not bother him]

have/get your head (screwed) on right/straight *informal* : to think or act in a smart and sensible way ▪ She's young, but it's clear that she *has her head screwed on right*. ▪ You think that's a good idea? You need to *get your head screwed on straight*.

head and shoulders above — used to say that someone or something is much better than others ▪ They ***are/stand head and shoulders above*** the competition.

head in the sand ✧ If you ***bury/have/hide (etc.) your head in the sand***, you ignore something unpleasant that you should be dealing with. ▪ He can't just *bury his head in the sand* every time there's a problem.

head over heels : very deeply in love ▪ We were *head over heels* (in love). ▪ He ***fell head over heels for*** some girl he met at school. ▪ (*US*) He ***went head over heels for*** her.

heads roll *informal* ✧ If you say that ***heads will roll*** or (less commonly) ***heads are going to roll***, you mean that people will be severely punished or will lose their jobs because of something that has happened. ▪ When the boss finds out about the mistake, *heads will roll*.

hit the nail on the head see ¹HIT

hold up your head *or* ***hold your head (up) high*** : to be proud : to not feel ashamed ▪ Even though they lost the game, they can still *hold up their heads* because they tried their best.

keep your head : to remain calm ▪ She has shown that she can *keep her head* in a crisis.

keep your head above water : to avoid financial failure while having money problems ▪ We have so much debt that we're barely able to *keep our heads above water*.

keep your head down *informal* : to behave in a quiet way that does not attract attention ▪ a politician who is *keeping his head down* and trying to avoid controversy

knock heads see ¹KNOCK

knock someone's head off see ¹KNOCK

knock some sense into someone's head see ¹SENSE

knock (something) on the head see ¹KNOCK

lose your head : to become very upset or angry ▪ He *lost his head* and said some things he regrets.

not make head or/nor tail of *or US* ***not make heads or/nor tails (out) of*** *informal* : to be unable to understand (something) ▪ I *couldn't make heads or tails of* her reaction. ▪ His handwriting was so bad that we *couldn't make heads or tails out of* it.

off the top of your head see ¹TOP

off your head *Brit, informal* : crazy or foolish ▪ He's not just eccentric—he's completely *off his head*! ▪ He's gone *off his head* over some girl.

on your head **1** : with the upper and lower parts of your body reversed in position ▪ Can you ***stand on your head***? **2** : in or into great disorder ▪ News of the discovery ***turned*** the scientific world ***on its head*** **3** — used to say that you will be blamed for something ▪ If we miss our deadline, it will be *on your head*. [=it will be your fault]

out of your head *informal* : unable to act or think in a reasonable and controlled way because of drunkenness or strong emotion ▪ He was (drunk) *out of his head*. [=he was extremely drunk] ▪ Her parents were *out of their heads* with worry [=were extremely worried and upset] when she didn't come home on time.

over your head : beyond your understanding or ability ▪ The technical details were *over my head*. [=too complicated for me to understand] ▪ That joke went right *over my head*. [=I did not get that joke] ▪ We realized after we started the business that we were (in) *over our heads*. [=we were trying to do something that was too difficult]

per head : for each person ▪ The price is $20 *per head*.

put/stick/raise your head above the parapet see PARAPET

put your heads together : to think of a solution to a problem with another person ▪ I'm sure we can solve this problem if we just *put our heads together*.

rear/raise its ugly head ✧ If something bad *rears/raises its ugly head*, it suddenly becomes obvious or causes trouble. ▪ Inflation threatened to *rear its ugly head*.

scratch your head *informal* : to be confused about something and unable to understand the reason for it ▪ His odd behavior left us all *scratching our heads*.

scream/shout/yell/laugh (etc.) your head off *informal* : to scream/shout/yell/laugh (etc.) very loudly or for a long time ▪ She was *screaming her head off*. ▪ You can *shout your head off* at him, but he still won't listen. ▪ If they saw me dressed like this, they'd *laugh their heads off*.

shake your head see ¹SHAKE

two heads are better than one — used to say that it is easier for two people who help each other to solve a problem than it is for one person to solve a problem alone

turn heads : to attract attention or notice ▪ The car's sleek design is bound to *turn heads*.

²head *verb* heads; head•ed; head•ing

1 [+ *obj*] **a** : to be the leader of (something) ▪ She *heads* the committee. ▪ The group was *headed* by the church pastor. ▪ He was accused of *heading* the revolt. — often + *up* ▪ The research committee was *headed up* by several leading scientists. **b** : to be first on (a list) ▪ He *heads* [=*tops*] the list of candidates for the job.

2 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* [*no obj*] : to go in a specified direction or toward a specified place ▪ She turned around and *headed* (for) home. ▪ I hopped in the car and *headed* down the street. ▪ After lunch, we *headed* back to the office. ▪ She *headed* out early this morning. ▪ The birds have already started *heading* south for the winter. ✧ To be ***heading*** or ***headed*** somewhere is to be going or directed somewhere. ▪ Where are you *heading*? = Where are you *headed*? [=where are you going?] ▪ The ship was *heading/headed* out to sea. — often + *for* ▪ We were on a plane *headed for* Hawaii. — often used figuratively ▪ The economy may be *heading* into a recession. ▪ If you keep acting like this, you'll be *heading/headed for* trouble!

3 [+ *obj*] *soccer* : to hit (the ball) with your head ▪ The forward *headed* the ball into the goal.

head off [*phrasal verb*] **1** : to go to another place ▪ I'll see you later—I'm *heading off*. ▪ He *headed off* to work. **2** ***head (someone) off*** *or* ***head off (someone)*** : to stop (someone) from moving forward ▪ We can *head* them *off* at the pass. **3** ***head (something) off*** *or* ***head off (something)*** : to prevent (something) from happening ▪ They tried to *head off* the crisis by raising interest rates.

head•ache /ˈhɛdˌeɪk/ *noun, pl* -aches

1 : an ache or pain in the head [*count*] I'm starting to get a *headache*. [*noncount*] The symptoms include fever and *headache*. — see also SPLITTING HEADACHE

2 [*count*] : a difficult or annoying situation or problem ▪ The city's biggest *headache* is traffic. ▪ Managing your finances can be a real *headache*.

– **head•achy** /ˈhɛdˌeɪki/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ I was feeling tired and *headachy*.

head•band /ˈhɛdˌbænd/ *noun, pl* **-bands** [*count*] : a band of cloth or some other material worn on or around your head

head•board /ˈhɛdˌboɚd/ *noun, pl* **-boards** [*count*] : an upright board at the end of a bed where you rest your head — see picture at BED

head boy *noun, pl* ~ **boys** [*count*] *Brit* : an older male student in a British school who is chosen to have special duties and to represent the school

head case *noun, pl* ~ **cases** [*count*] *informal* : a person who has mental or emotional problems : a crazy person ▪ Her brother's a real *head case*.

head•cheese /ˈhɛdˌʧiːz/ *noun* [*noncount*] *US* : a food made from parts of the head, feet, and sometimes the tongue and heart of a pig — called also (*Brit*) *brawn*

head cold *noun, pl* ~ **colds** [*count*] : a cold that mainly affects areas in your nose, throat, etc., and that makes breathing difficult

head count *noun, pl* ~ **counts** [*count*] : an act of counting the number of people at a place, event, etc. ▪ She ***did a head count*** to make sure all the students were on the bus.

head•dress /ˈhɛdˌdrɛs/ *noun, pl* **-dress•es** [*count*] : a decorative covering for your head ▪ The dancers wore ceremonial *headdresses*.

head•ed /ˈhɛdəd/ *adj* : having a head or heads of a specified type or number — usually used in combination with another adjective ▪ a curly-*headed* child [=a child with curly hair] ▪ a red-*headed* actress ▪ a two-*headed* ax — see also WRONG-HEADED

head•er /ˈhɛdɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

1 : a word, phrase, etc., that is placed at the beginning of a document, passage, etc., or at the top of a page ▪ a column *header* ▪ an e-mail *header* [=lines at the beginning of an e-mail message giving information about the message's origin, etc.] — see picture at TABLE; compare FOOTER

2 *informal* : a fall in which your head hits the ground ▪ She tripped on the rock and ***took a header***.

3 *soccer* : a shot or pass made by hitting the ball with your head ▪ He scored with a *header* past the goalie.

– see also DOUBLEHEADER

head•first /ˈhɛdˈfɚst/ *adv*

1 : with the head leading ▪ She dove into the water *headfirst*. — compare FEETFIRST

2 : without taking time to think about your actions ▪ She rushed into the relationship *headfirst*.

– **headfirst** *adj* ▪ a *headfirst* dive/slide

head•gear /ˈhɛdˌgiɚ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : things (such as hats and helmets) that are worn on your head ▪ The law requires cyclists to wear protective *headgear*. ▪ Her preferred form of *headgear* is a big, floppy hat.

head girl *noun, pl* ~ **girls** [*count*] *Brit* : an older female student in a British school who is chosen to have special duties and to represent the school

head–hunt•ing /ˈhɛdˌhʌntɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the activity of finding people who are suited for a particular job — often used before another noun ▪ They retained a *head-hunting* firm to fill the position of chief executive officer.

– **head•hunt•er** /ˈhɛdˌhʌntɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ Corporations often use *headhunters* to find candidates for executive positions.

head•ing /ˈhɛdɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-ings** [*count*]

1 : the direction in which a ship or aircraft points ▪ What is your current *heading*?

2 : a word, phrase, etc., that is placed at the beginning of a document, passage, etc., or at the top of a page ▪ We organized all the recipes under different subject *headings*. ▪ a chapter *heading* — see picture at TABLE

3 : a name or label used for a group of people or things ▪ His paintings usually fall/go/come ***under the heading of*** realism.

head•lamp /ˈhɛdˌlæmp/ *noun, pl* **-lamps** [*count*] : HEADLIGHT

head•land /ˈhɛdlənd/ *noun, pl* **-lands** [*count*] : a narrow area of land that sticks out into the sea : PROMONTORY

head•less /ˈhɛdləs/ *adj* : having no head ▪ a *headless* pin ▪ a *headless* body

head•light /ˈhɛdˌlaɪt/ *noun, pl* **-lights** [*count*] : a light on the front of a vehicle (such as a car or motorcycle) — see picture at CAR

head•line /ˈhɛdˌlaɪn/ *noun, pl* **-lines**

1 [*count*] : the title written in large letters over a story in a newspaper ▪ The story of his arrest appeared beneath the *headline* "Caught!" ▪ She only had time to scan the *headlines* before she had to rush out the door.

2 ***headlines*** [*plural*] : the major news stories reported in newspapers, magazines, or television news programs ▪ Surprising developments have kept the murder investigation ***in the headlines*** for several weeks. ▪ He ***made/grabbed headlines*** [=became the subject of major news] with his recent antismoking campaign. ▪ She has ***grabbed/hit/made the headlines*** by making public accusations of corruption within the government. ▪ The murder investigation has been ***in the headlines*** for several weeks.

²headline *verb* **-lines**; **-lined**; **-lin•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to provide (a newspaper story) with a headline — usually used as *(be) headlined* ▪ The story of his arrest *was headlined* "Caught!"

2 *US* : to be the main performer in (a show or concert) ▪ The band is *headlining* the music festival.

head•lin•er /ˈhɛdˌlaɪnɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : the main performer in a show or concert ▪ He was the *headliner* at a local night club.

head•lock /ˈhɛdˌlɑːk/ *noun, pl* **-locks** [*count*] : a method of holding someone by putting your arm around the person's head ▪ He had me in a *headlock*.

head•long /ˈhɛdˈlɑːŋ/ *adv*

1 : with the head leading : HEADFIRST ▪ I dove *headlong* to the floor.

2 : without taking time to think about your actions — usually + *into* ▪ We rushed *headlong into* marriage.

– **head•long** /ˈhɛdˌlɑːŋ/ *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ a *headlong* dive ▪ We made a *headlong* rush for the door.

head•man /ˈhɛdˈmæn/ *noun, pl* **-men** /-ˈmɛn/ [*count*] : a man who is the leader of a tribe or village : CHIEF

head•mas•ter /ˈhɛdˈmæstɚ, *Brit* ˈhɛdˈmɑːstə/ *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*]

1 : a man who is the head of a U.S. private school

2 : a man who is the head of a British school

head•mis•tress /ˈhɛdˈmɪstrəs/ *noun, pl* **-tress•es** [*count*]

1 : a woman who is the head of a U.S. private school

2 : a woman who is the head of a British school

head–on /ˈhɛdˈɑːn/ *adv*

1 : with the head or front hitting first ▪ The two cars collided *head-on*.

2 : in a very direct way ▪ She decided to confront/meet the challenge *head-on*.

– **head–on** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ a *head-on* collision/confrontation

head•phones /ˈhɛdˌfoʊnz/ *noun* [*plural*] : a device that is worn over your ears and used for listening to music, the radio, etc., without having other people hear it ▪ a pair/set of *headphones*

head•piece /ˈhɛdˌpiːs/ *noun, pl* **-piec•es** [*count*] : a usually decorative covering for the head ▪ The bride wore a veil with a beaded *headpiece*.

head•quar•tered /ˈhɛdˌkwoɚtɚd/ *adj, not used before a noun* : having headquarters in a certain place : based in a particular location ▪ The company is *headquartered* in Springfield, Massachusetts.

head•quar•ters /ˈhɛdˌkwoɚtɚz/ *noun* [*plural*] : a place from which something (such as a business or a military action) is controlled or directed ✧ *Headquarters* is plural in form but is used with both plural and singular verbs. ▪ The company's *headquarters* is/are in Atlanta.

head•rest /ˈhɛdˌrɛst/ *noun, pl* **-rests** [*count*] : the part of a seat or chair that supports your head — see picture at CAR

head•room /ˈhɛdˌruːm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the space between the top of your head and a ceiling or roof when you are standing or sitting ▪ There isn't much *headroom* in the basement. [=the ceiling is low in the basement] ▪ He's looking for a car with a lot of *headroom*.

head•scarf /ˈhɛdˌskɑɚf/ *noun, pl* **-scarves** [*count*] : a piece of cloth worn over a woman's or girl's head

head•set /ˈhɛdˌsɛt/ *noun, pl* **-sets** [*count*]

1 : a pair of headphones

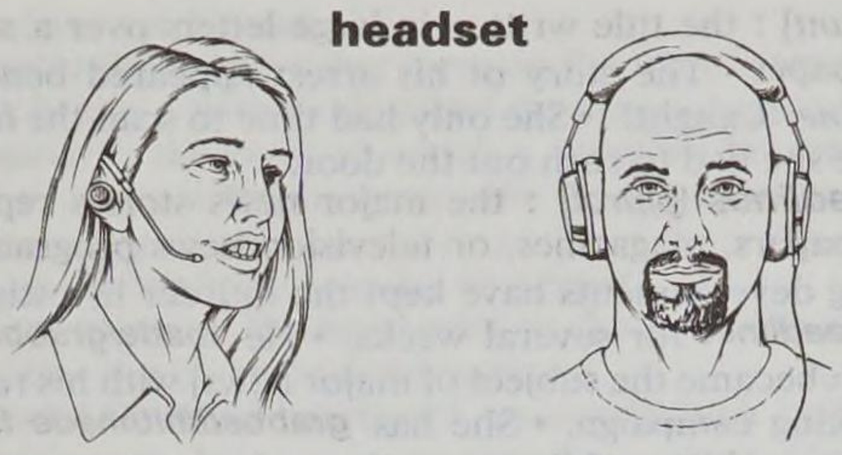
2 : a device that holds an earphone and a microphone in place on a person's head

– see picture on next page

head•stand /ˈhɛdˌstænd/ *noun, pl* **-stands** [*count*] : the act of positioning your body so that your head and hands are on the floor and your legs and feet are straight up in the air ▪

H

headset



She can do a *headstand*. [=she can stand on her head]

head start *noun, pl* ~ **starts** [*count*]
1 : an advantage given to a someone at the beginning of a race ▪ They gave me a five-minute *head start*.
2 : an advantage that you have or get when you are starting to do something ▪ She took some extra classes to get a *head start* in/on her career. ▪ His natural athletic talent gave him a *head start* on/over his peers.

head•stone /ˈhɛdˌstoʊn/ *noun, pl* **-stones** [*count*] : a stone that marks the place where a dead person is buried and that usually has the person's name and birth and death dates on it — called also *gravestone, tombstone*

head•strong /ˈhɛdˌstrɑːŋ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not willing to do what other people want : very stubborn ▪ The child is very *headstrong*. ▪ He is known for his *headstrong* behavior.

heads up *interj, US, informal* — used to tell someone to look up because of possible danger ▪ He shouted, "*Heads up*!" as he threw the ball.

[1]heads–up /ˈhɛdzˈʌp/ *noun* [*singular*] *US, informal* : a message that tells or warns someone about something that is going to happen ▪ She ***gave him a heads-up*** that the company's president will be visiting the office.

[2]heads–up *adj, always used before a noun, US, informal* : showing that you are very aware of what is happening around you : ALERT ▪ a *heads-up* play by the first baseman

head table *noun, pl* ~ **tables** [*count*] : the table at which the most important people sit during a formal meal

head teacher *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] *Brit* : the person who is in charge of a school

head–to–head *adv* : in a direct competition or contest ▪ The two teams will compete *head-to-head* for the championship. ▪ He'll ***go head-to-head*** with his toughest opponent in the upcoming debate.
– **head–to–head** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ a *head-to-head* competition

head•wait•er /ˈhɛdˈweɪtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a waiter who is in charge of other waiters in a restaurant

head•wa•ters /ˈhɛdˌwɑːtɚz/ *noun* [*plural*] : the beginning and upper part of a stream or river ▪ the *headwaters* of the Amazon

head•way /ˈhɛdˌweɪ/ *noun*
make headway : to move forward or make progress ▪ The wind kept the boat from *making headway* toward shore. ▪ The boat *made* little *headway* [=moved forward very little] against the strong wind. ▪ We're gradually *making headway* with the project. ▪ They've recently *made* some *headway* in their search for a cure.

head•wind /ˈhɛdˌwɪnd/ *noun, pl* **-winds** [*count*] : a wind that is blowing toward something (such as a ship or an airplane) as it moves forward — compare TAILWIND

head•word /ˈhɛdˌwɚd/ *noun, pl* **-words** [*count*] : a word placed at the beginning of an entry in a dictionary, encyclopedia, etc.

heady /ˈhɛdi/ *adj* **head•i•er; -est**
1 : causing feelings of excitement or dizziness : having a powerful effect on your senses ▪ a *heady* wine/aroma ▪ The plane soared to *heady* heights.
2 : very excited and happy ▪ They were *heady* with their newfound success.

heal /ˈhiːl/ *verb* **heals; healed; heal•ing**
1 [*no obj*] : to become healthy or well again ▪ The cut *healed* slowly. ▪ You've got to give the injury time to *heal*. ▪ After the divorce, he needed some time to *heal*.
2 [+ *obj*] : to make (someone or something) healthy or well again ▪ The ointment will help *heal* the wound. ▪ *heal* the sick ▪ Only time will ***heal the rift/breach*** between the two families. [=make the two families become friendly again]
– **heal•er** /ˈhiːlɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ Native American *healers* ▪ Time is a great *healer*. – **healing** *adj* ▪ The tree sap is believed to have *healing* powers. ▪ the *healing* process
– **healing** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ traditional methods of *healing* — see also FAITH HEALING

[1]health /ˈhɛlθ/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 a : the condition of being well or free from disease ▪ We nursed him back to *health*. ▪ My aunt is quite elderly, but she still has her *health*. [=she is still healthy] ▪ She is ***the picture of health***. [=she is very healthy] ✧ If you ***drink (to) someone's health***, you take a drink as a wish for that person to be healthy. **b :** the overall condition of someone's body or mind ▪ He's in good/poor *health* these days. ▪ He has continued to enjoy good *health* in his old age. ▪ Her *health* is excellent. = She is in the best of *health*. ▪ Smoking is bad for your *health*. ▪ He is concerned about his sister's mental *health*.
2 : the condition or state of something ▪ We must protect the *health* of our oceans. ▪ The economy is in a period of robust financial *health*. ▪ Investors are worried about the company's *health*.
give (someone or something) a clean bill of health see [1]BILL

[2]health *adj, always used before a noun*
1 : of or relating to medical care ▪ She works in the *health* field. ▪ *health* insurance/services ▪ He was treated at the *health* center.
2 : relating to or affecting the condition of your body or mind ▪ *health* education ▪ Have you had any *health* problems recently? ▪ These chemicals pose a *health* hazard/risk.

health care *noun* [*noncount*] : the prevention or treatment of illness by doctors, dentists, psychologists, etc.
– **health–care** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ *health-care* workers

health club *noun, pl* ~ **clubs** [*count*] : a private club where people go to exercise

health farm *noun, pl* ~ **farms** [*count*] *chiefly Brit* : SPA 1b

health food *noun, pl* ~ **foods** : a food that is believed to be good for your health : a food that has no artificial ingredients [*noncount*] He eats only *health food*. ▪ She shops at the *health-food* store. [*count*] The restaurant offers a variety of *health foods*.

health•ful /ˈhɛlθfəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : good for your health : HEALTHY ▪ *healthful* living ▪ a *healthful* lifestyle/diet ▪ The meal was both *healthful* and satisfying.
– **health•ful•ly** *adv* – **health•ful•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

health spa *noun, pl* ~ **spas** [*count*] : SPA 1b

healthy /ˈhɛlθi/ *adj* **health•i•er; -est** [*also more* ~; *most* ~]
1 a : having good health : not sick or injured : WELL ▪ *healthy* babies ▪ tips for staying *healthy* **b :** showing good health ▪ a *healthy* complexion ▪ He has a *healthy* [=*hearty, large*] appetite.
2 : good for your health : HEALTHFUL ▪ a *healthy* lifestyle/diet ▪ *healthy* living ▪ Those foods aren't *healthy* (for you). = It's not *healthy* (for you) to eat those foods.
3 : doing well : successful or growing ▪ a *healthy* economy ▪ The company is financially *healthy*.
4 : large in size or amount ▪ A *healthy* number of her poems were published in the magazine. ▪ She has a *healthy* bank account. ▪ This line of work requires a *healthy* dose of self-discipline. ▪ His business earns a *healthy* profit.
5 : sensible or natural ▪ The students have a *healthy* curiosity about the world. ▪ a *healthy* respect for dangerous animals
– **health•i•ly** /ˈhɛlθəli/ *adv* ▪ living *healthily* ▪ *healthily* active people – **health•i•ness** /ˈhɛlθinəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] – **healthy** *adv, informal* ▪ He eats *healthy*. ▪ She lives *healthy* by exercising and eating right.

[1]heap /ˈhiːp/ *noun, pl* **heaps** [*count*]
1 : a large, disordered pile of things ▪ He dumped the grass clippings into the compost *heap*. ▪ a *heap* of old newspapers ▪ She left her dirty clothes ***in a heap*** on the floor. — see also SCRAP HEAP
2 *informal* : a great number or large amount of something ▪ He's in a *heap* of trouble! — often plural ▪ They've got *heaps* of money.
3 *informal* : an old car that is in poor condition ▪ I can't believe he's still driving that old *heap*.
at the bottom/top of the heap — used to describe a person's level of success, position in society, etc. ▪ Quite a few people applied for the job, but his past work experience put him *at the top of the heap*. [=made him the strongest candidate of the group] ▪ People *at the bottom of the heap* [=poor people] will not be helped much by the new tax cuts.
collapse/fall (etc.) in a heap : to fall very suddenly to the ground and lie there ▪ Overcome by heat exhaustion, he *collapsed/fell in a heap*.

[2]heap *verb* **heaps; heaped; heap•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 a : to put (something) in a large pile ▪ He *heaped* the leaves (up) beside the fence. ▪ They *heaped* food on our plates. [=they put a lot of food on our plates] — often used as *(be) heaped* ▪ Books and magazines *were heaped* in a corner. ▪ Bags of flour *were heaped* (up) on the counter. **b :** to put a pile or heap on or in (something) — + *with* ▪ They *heaped* our plates *with* food. ▪ She brought out a basket *heaped with* fruit. [=filled with a large amount of fruit]
2 : to give (something, such as praise, blame, etc.) in large amounts — + *on* or *upon* ▪ The critics *heaped* scorn *on* our efforts. [=the critics were very scornful of our efforts] ▪ He was embarrassed by all the praise being *heaped upon* him.

heaped *adj, Brit* : HEAPING ▪ a *heaped* plateful ▪ a *heaped* tablespoon

heaping *adj, US*
1 : holding a large pile of something ▪ I ate three *heaping* platefuls of rice and beans.
2 : holding as much as can be held ▪ Add one *heaping* tablespoon of sugar.

hear /ˈhiɚ/ *verb* **hears; heard** /ˈhɚd/; **hear•ing**
1 *not used in progressive tenses* **a :** to be aware of (sound) through the ear [+ *obj*] Do you *hear* that music? ▪ I can't *hear* you. = I can't *hear* what you are saying. ▪ I couldn't *hear* a word of what he said over all that noise. ▪ I thought I *heard* him leave. ▪ He was *heard* leaving. = He was *heard* to leave. [*no obj*] Would you turn the volume up a little? I can't *hear*. ▪ She doesn't *hear* well. [=her ability to hear sounds is poor; her hearing is poor] **b** [+ *obj*] **:** to listen to (someone or something) ▪ I *heard* her in concert a few years ago. ▪ Have you ever *heard* Wagner sung/performed in English? ▪ The committee will *hear* witnesses today.
2 : to be told (something) [+ *obj*] I *hear* he's leaving town. ▪ "Is he leaving town?" "So I've *heard*." = "So I *hear*." ▪ "Is he leaving town?" "That's what I'm *hearing*." [=that's what people are saying] ▪ I don't know what happened. I'll let you know if I *hear* anything. ▪ I've *heard* it said that smoking is bad for your health. ▪ He *heard* it on the radio. ▪ (*old-fashioned*) I ***hear tell*** that he's leaving town. ▪ ***Have you heard the one/joke about*** the traveling salesman and the farmer's daughter? [*no obj*] Didn't you *hear*? There's a storm heading our way. — often + *about* ▪ A week passed before they *heard about* the incident. ▪ Frankly, I'm sick of *hearing about* his problems.
3 [+ *obj*] **:** to give attention to (someone or something) ▪ Lord, *hear* our prayers.
4 [+ *obj*] *law* **:** to listen to and make a judgment about (a court case) ▪ The judge will *hear* the case.
be hearing things **:** to hear sounds that are not real ▪ She swears she heard someone open the door, but I think she's just *hearing things*.
hear from [*phrasal verb*] ***hear from (someone)*** **:** to receive a letter, a telephone call, etc., from (someone) ▪ We *heard from* them yesterday. ▪ I haven't *heard from* her lately. ▪ I haven't *heard* anything *from* her lately.
Hear! Hear! — used during a speech or meeting to say that you agree with what someone else has just said
hear of [*phrasal verb*] ***hear of (someone or something)*** **:** to be aware of the existence of (someone or something) **:** to know about (someone or something) ▪ He's supposed to be a famous actor, but this is the first time I've ever (even) *heard of* him. [=the first time I have heard his name] ▪ I've never *heard of* such a thing! ▪ If I *hear of* a job opening, I'll let you know. — see also NOT HEAR OF (below)
hear out [*phrasal verb*] ***hear (someone) out*** **:** to listen to (someone who wants to tell you something) ▪ I know you don't agree but *hear* me *out*.
hear yourself think *informal* — used to say that you cannot think clearly because of loud talking, music, etc. ▪ That music is so loud I *can't hear myself think*.
I hear what you're saying *informal* — used to say that you understand what someone is telling you ▪ I *hear what you're saying* but I still disagree.
make your presence heard see PRESENCE
make yourself heard see [1]MAKE
never/not hear the end of it *informal* — used to say that someone will keep talking about something for a long time ▪ If it turns out that he's right, we'll *never hear the end of it*. [=he will keep reminding us that he was right]
not hear of **:** to not allow (something) ▪ We tried to pay him for his help, but he would*n't hear of* it. [=he wouldn't allow us to pay] — see also HEAR OF (above)
you could hear a pin drop see [1]PIN

hear•er /ˈhirɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] **:** a person who hears or listens to someone or something ▪ Different *hearers* may interpret the same phrase differently.

hear•ing /ˈhirɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-ings**
1 [*noncount*] **:** the sense through which a person or animal is aware of sound **:** the ability to hear ▪ Her *hearing* is good/poor. ▪ He suffered some loss of *hearing* in his right ear. ▪ She is ***hearing-impaired*** [=not able to hear well] — see also *hard of hearing* at [1]HARD
2 [*noncount*] **:** the distance within which someone's voice can be heard ▪ She stayed ***within hearing*** of her mother's voice. [=she stayed close enough to her mother to hear her voice]
3 [*count*] **:** an opportunity to explain why you did, said, or believe something — usually singular ▪ They agreed to give both sides ***a fair hearing*** [=they agreed to listen to and consider statements from both sides]
4 [*count*] **:** a meeting or session at which evidence and arguments about a crime, complaint, etc., are presented to a person or group who will have to decide on what action should be taken ▪ The judge has granted them a *hearing*. ▪ The committee held public *hearings* on the bill.

hearing aid *noun, pl* ~ **aids** [*count*] **:** an electronic device worn in or on the ear to help a person who has hearing problems to hear better

hear•say /ˈhiɚˌseɪ/ *noun* [*noncount*] **:** something heard from another person **:** something that you have been told ▪ You can't judge them solely on the basis of *hearsay*. ▪ They're supposedly getting married soon, but that's just *hearsay*. ▪ (*law*) ***hearsay evidence*** [=evidence presented by a witness that is based on another person's statement]

hearse /ˈhɚs/ *noun, pl* **hears•es** [*count*] **:** a large car that is used for carrying a coffin to a grave

heart /ˈhɑɚt/ *noun, pl* **hearts**
1 [*count*] **:** the organ in your chest that pumps blood through your veins and arteries ▪ I could feel my *heart* pounding/racing. ▪ He has a bad/weak *heart*. — often used before another noun ▪ He suffers from a *heart* condition. ▪ *heart* failure/disease/surgery ▪ a *heart* murmur ▪ Aerobic exercise increases your ***heart rate*** [=*pulse*] — see picture at HUMAN; see also CORONARY HEART DISEASE, OPEN-HEART
2 [*count*] **:** the front part of your chest ▪ He put his hand on his *heart*. ▪ (*literary*) She clutched the child to her *heart*. [=*breast, bosom*]
3 a [*count*] **:** the heart thought of as the place where emotions are felt ▪ You shouldn't let your *heart* rule your head. [=you should be guided by reason and not by your emotions] ▪ When she heard the news, her *heart* filled with joy/sorrow. ▪ You're a man ***after my own heart*** [=we have similar likes and dislikes] ▪ He offered to help us ***out of the goodness of his heart*** [=because he is a good person and not because he wanted to get anything for himself] ▪ He ***wears his heart on his sleeve*** [=he shows his emotions very openly] ▪ She's not too smart, but at least her ***heart is in the right place*** [=she is a kind person who is trying to do good things] ▪ I just ***didn't have the heart*** to tell her that I didn't like her singing. [=I couldn't tell her because I knew that she would be hurt by what I said] ▪ The idea ***struck fear into their hearts*** [=made them very afraid] ▪ I decided to ***follow my heart*** [=to do what I truly wanted to do] and take up acting. ▪ ***My heart goes out to*** [=I feel very sorry for] the families of the victims. ▪ Her ***heart's desire*** [=greatest wish] was to become a movie star. ▪ She just couldn't ***find it in her heart to*** forgive them. ▪ I ***felt in my heart*** that our relationship was never meant to be. ▪ I think she knows ***in her heart*** that they're right. = I think she knows it ***in her heart of hearts*** [=she knows it even though she does not want to admit it] ▪ They said they'd try to fix the problem, but I could see that ***their hearts (just) weren't in it*** [=they did not really feel much interest or enthusiasm about doing it] **b :** a kind or generous feeling for other people [*noncount*] a ruler without *heart* [*count*] a ruler without a *heart* ▪ He has a kind *heart*. [=he treats people kindly] ▪ He has a cold/hard *heart*. [=he treats people in a harsh or unfriendly way] ▪ She has ***a big heart*** = She is ***all heart*** = She has ***a heart of gold*** [=she is a very kind person] ▪ She has ***a heart of stone*** [=she does not care at all about the feelings of other people] ▪ ***Have a heart*** Can't you see he needs help? — see also CHANGE OF HEART, HEART-TO-HEART, LONELY HEARTS
4 [*noncount*] **:** feelings of love or affection ▪ It's best not to interfere in ***matters/affairs of the heart*** [=romantic matters/

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affairs] ▪ He was determined to ***win/steal/capture her heart***. [=to win her love]

5 [*noncount*] : emotional strength that allows you to continue in a difficult situation ▪ The team has shown a lot of *heart*.

6 a *the heart* : the central or most important part of something ▪ deep in *the heart* of the forest ▪ Their offices are in *the heart* of the city. ▪ Let's get right to *the heart of* the matter. **b** [*count*] : the central part of some vegetables ▪ artichoke *hearts* ▪ *cabbage* hearts

7 [*count*] : a shape that looks like a simple drawing of a heart and that is used as a symbol of love and affection ▪ The child decorated the card with *hearts* and flowers.

8 a [*count*] : a playing card that is marked with a red heart ▪ one *heart*, two diamonds, and two clubs — see picture at PLAYING CARD **b *hearts*** [*plural*] : the suit in a deck of playing cards that consists of cards marked by hearts ▪ the king of *hearts* — compare CLUB, DIAMOND, SPADE

absence makes the heart grow fonder see ABSENCE

at heart **1** : at the most basic level ▪ I'm really a romantic *at heart*. ▪ She's 81 years old, but she's still ***young at heart***. [=she behaves and thinks like a much younger person] **2** : as a main concern ▪ We ***have your best interests at heart***. [=we want to do what is best for you]

break someone's heart : to cause someone to feel great sorrow or sadness ▪ He *broke her heart* when he left her for another woman. ▪ Her boyfriend left her with a *broken heart*. ▪ It *breaks my heart* to think of how those children have suffered.

by heart : from memory ▪ She knows the entire poem *by heart*. [=she has learned the poem and can recite it from memory] ▪ He learned the speech *by heart*.

close/dear/near to your heart : very personally and emotionally important to you ▪ This topic is one that's very *close to my heart*. [=I care very much about this subject] ▪ The school is very ***near and dear to her heart***.

cross my heart see ²CROSS

cry your heart out see ¹CRY

do your heart good : to make you feel very happy ▪ It *does his heart good* to know that his daughters have become friends.

eat your heart out see EAT

faint of heart see ¹FAINT

from the bottom of your heart *or* ***from the/your heart*** : in a very sincere way ▪ He thanked us *from the bottom of his heart*. ▪ When I said you were my best friend, I meant it *from the bottom of my heart*. ▪ His speech at the memorial service was ***straight from the heart***.

harden your heart see HARDEN

have your heart set on (something) *or* ***set your heart on (something)*** ✧ When you *have your heart set on something* or when you *set your heart on something*, you want it very much. ▪ She *has her heart set on* a new bicycle.

heart in your mouth *informal* ✧ If ***your heart is in your mouth***, you are very excited or nervous about something. ▪ He waited for her arrival with *his heart in his mouth*.

heart is knocking see ¹KNOCK

heart skips a beat *informal* ✧ When you say that your ***heart skipped a beat*** or that something ***made your heart skip a beat***, it means that you suddenly became very surprised, excited, or nervous about something. ▪ When I learned I was on live television, my *heart skipped a beat*. ▪ The news was enough to *make his heart skip a beat*.

heavy heart : a feeling of sadness ▪ It is with a *heavy heart* that I bring you this bad news.

know your own heart see ¹KNOW

light heart : a feeling of happiness ▪ He left for home with a *light heart*.

lose heart : to begin to feel that you cannot do something that you have been trying to do : to become discouraged ▪ They never *lost heart*, even in the face of adversity.

lose your heart : to fall in love with someone ▪ He met a beautiful woman and *lost his heart*. — usually + *to* ▪ She *lost her heart to* a dashing young artist.

open your heart **1** : to talk in a very open and honest way about your feelings ▪ He *opened his heart* (to her) and told her how he really felt. **2** : to begin to be generous and kind ▪ We should all *open our hearts* and do something to help those poor children.

pour your heart out see POUR

sick at heart : very sad and upset ▪ The idea of children suffering from hunger made him *sick at heart*.

sing/dance/play (etc.) your heart out : to sing/dance/play (etc.) with great energy or effort ▪ The band *played their hearts out* in hopes of winning the prize.

take heart : to begin to feel better and more hopeful : to stop feeling sad or discouraged ▪ *Take heart*; things will get better soon.

take (something) to heart : to be deeply affected or hurt by something ▪ He *took their criticism* (very much) *to heart*.

to your heart's content : until you feel satisfied : as long or as much as you want ▪ They let him eat and drink *to his heart's content*. ▪ Let's go somewhere where we can talk *to our hearts' content*.

warm the cockles of your heart see COCKLE

with all your heart : in a very sincere and deeply felt way ▪ I love him *with all my heart*. ▪ She tried *with all her heart* to please them.

your heart bleeds for ✧ If *your heart bleeds for* someone, you feel great sadness or pity for that person.

your heart leaps ✧ When *your heart leaps*, you become very happy or joyful about something. ▪ *Our hearts leapt* when we heard that she had won.

your heart melts ✧ When *your heart melts*, you begin to feel love, affection, or sympathy for someone or something. ▪ When he saw the puppies, *his heart melted*. ▪ It would have *melted your heart* to see her lying in that hospital bed. ▪ A warm smile *melts the heart*.

your heart sinks ✧ When *your heart sinks*, you become sad or disappointed about something. ▪ *My heart sank* when I saw the sad expression on her face.

heart•ache /ˈhɑɚtˌeɪk/ *noun, pl* **-aches** : a strong feeling of sadness [*count*] I've had more than my share of *heartaches* in my life. [*noncount*] If you ignore the problem, you'll just cause yourself more *heartache* [=*grief*] later on.

heart attack *noun, pl* ~ **-tacks** [*count*] : a sudden painful and dangerous condition in which your heart stops beating properly ▪ Her chest pains turned out to be caused by a minor *heart attack*. ▪ He died of a massive *heart attack*. ▪ He fell off the swing and ***nearly gave me a heart attack***. [=scared me very badly]

heart•beat /ˈhɑɚtˌbi:t/ *noun, pl* **-beats** [*count*] : the action or sound of the heart as it pumps blood ▪ The patient had a rapid *heartbeat*. ▪ irregular *heartbeats*

in a heartbeat *US, informal* : in a very brief time : without any delay or hesitation ▪ Even though the job was difficult, he says he'd agree to do it again *in a heartbeat*.

heart•break /ˈhɑɚtˌbreɪk/ *noun, pl* **-breaks** : a very strong feeling of sadness, disappointment, etc. [*count*] He recently suffered a string of romantic *heartbreaks*. [*noncount*] She's had more than her share of *heartbreak*. [=her heart has been broken many times]

heart•break•er /ˈhɑɚtˌbreɪkɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : someone or something that causes you to feel very sad, disappointed, etc. : someone or something that breaks your heart ▪ a handsome actor who has a reputation as a *heartbreaker* [=as someone who breaks the hearts of many women] ▪ The team's most recent loss was a real *heartbreaker*.

heart•break•ing /ˈhɑɚtˌbreɪkɪŋ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : causing great sadness, disappointment, etc. ▪ She wrote a *heartbreaking* story about the death of her grandfather. ▪ It was *heartbreaking* to know that there was nothing I could do. ▪ The team suffered another *heartbreaking* defeat.

– **heart•break•ing•ly** *adv* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ a *heartbreakingly* tragic movie

heart•bro•ken /ˈhɑɚtˌbroʊkən/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : filled with great sadness ▪ She is *heartbroken* [=*brokenhearted*] that things turned out so badly.

heart•burn /ˈhɑɚtˌbɚn/ *noun* [*noncount*] : an unpleasant hot feeling in your chest caused by something that you ate ▪ I like spicy food, but it gives me *heartburn*.

heart•en /ˈhɑɚtn̩/ *verb* **-ens**; **-ened**; **-en•ing** [+ *obj*] : to cause (someone) to feel more cheerful or hopeful ▪ The team's victory has *heartened* its fans. — usually used as *(be) heartened* ▪ The team's fans *were heartened* by the victory.

– **heartening** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ It was ***heartening to*** see him looking so happy. ▪ We've received some *heartening* news.

heart•felt /ˈhɑɚtˌfɛlt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : deeply felt : very sincere ▪ You have our *heartfelt* thanks/sympathy/congratulations. ▪ Our most *heartfelt* wish is for our children to be happy.

hearth /ˈhɑɚθ/ *noun, pl* **hearths** [*count*] : the floor in front of or inside a fireplace ▪ They swept the ashes from the *hearth*. ▪ (*literary*) They longed for the comforts of ***hearth and home***. [=the comforts of home]

heart–healthy /ˈhɑɚtˌhɛlθi/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *chiefly US* : good for the health of your heart • a *heart-healthy* diet • *heart-healthy* foods

heart•i•ly /ˈhɑɚtəli/ *adv* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : in an enthusiastic and energetic way : in a hearty way • The children ate *heartily*. [=they ate a lot of food] • We all laughed *heartily*. • I *heartily* recommend the movie.
2 : completely or fully • I'm *heartily* sick of their complaints. • I'll be *heartily* [=*very*] glad when this job is done. • They *heartily* agreed.

heart•land /ˈhɑɚtˌlænd/ *noun, pl* **-lands** [*count*]
1 a : a central area of land • We drove into Scotland's *heartland*. **b** : the central area of the U.S. which is known for traditional values • a politician who is popular in the American *heartland*
2 : an area that is the center of an industry or activity • the *heartland* of high technology

heart•less /ˈhɑɚtləs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : very cruel • a *heartless* person/act
– **heart•less•ly** *adv* • She rescues pets that have been *heartlessly* abandoned. – **heart•less•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

heart•rend•ing /ˈhɑɚtˌrɛndɪŋ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : causing great sadness or sorrow • a *heartrending* [=*heartbreaking*] story/cry
– **heart•rend•ing•ly** *adv*

heart•sick /ˈhɑɚtˌsɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : very sad or disappointed • They were absolutely *heartsick* over/about the loss of their home. • I was *heartsick* to learn of their divorce.

heart–stop•ping /ˈhɑɚtˌstɑːpɪŋ/ *adj, always used before a noun* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : extremely shocking or exciting • a *heart-stopping* adventure • *heart-stopping* views of the canyon

heart•strings /ˈhɑɚtˌstrɪŋz/ *noun* [*plural*] : deep emotions • That movie really ***tugs/pulls at your heartstrings***. [=makes you emotional] • a writer who knows how to ***play on his readers' heartstrings***

heart•throb /ˈhɑɚtˌθrɑːb/ *noun, pl* **-throbs** [*count*] : an attractive and usually famous man • the latest teen *heartthrob*

[1]heart–to–heart /ˈhɑɚttəˈhɑɚt/ *adj* : very sincere and honest • The two of them had a *heart-to-heart* talk. [=they spoke to each other about their feelings very honestly]

[2]heart–to–heart *noun, pl* **-hearts** [*count*] : an honest, serious, and private conversation • He had a *heart-to-heart* with his son about the facts of life.

heart•warm•ing /ˈhɑɚtˌwɑɚmɪŋ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : causing pleasant feelings of happiness • The movie is a *heartwarming* story about a boy and his dog. • It's *heartwarming* to see how his neighbors have helped him.

hearty /ˈhɑɚti/ *adj* **heart•i•er**; **-est** [*also more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : done or expressed in a very open, cheerful, and energetic way • He gave us all a *hearty* welcome/greeting. • Our plan won their *hearty* [=*wholehearted*] approval. • a *hearty* laugh/handshake
2 : strong, healthy, and active • *hearty* young men and women • His grandmother remains ***hale and hearty*** in her old age. • All of the children have ***hearty appetites***. = All of the children are ***hearty eaters***. [=all of the children eat large amounts of food]
3 : large enough to satisfy hunger • a *hearty* meal • *hearty* soups
– **heart•i•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

[1]heat /ˈhiːt/ *noun, pl* **heats**
1 [*noncount*] : energy that causes things to become warmer • The sun's *heat* melted the snow. • the intense *heat* of a fire • She applied *heat* to the sore muscles in her leg. • body *heat*
2 [*noncount*] : hot weather or temperatures • a period of high *heat* and humidity • The crops were damaged by drought and extreme *heat*. • the desert's ***dry heat*** [=hot temperatures with little moisture in the air] — often used with *the* • She doesn't like *the heat*. • The runners performed well despite *the* 90-degree *heat*. • These flowers tend to wilt in *the heat* of summer. • They found a place to rest during *the* midday/afternoon *heat*. • They rested during ***the heat of the day***. [=the hottest part of the day]
3 a : the level of temperature that is used to cook something [*count*] — usually singular • The meat was cooked at a high *heat* for 10 minutes. • Reduce the *heat* to low and simmer. [*noncount*] Cook the milk over low/gentle/medium *heat*. **b** [*singular*] : a source of heat used for cooking something : the hot part of an oven, stove top, etc. • Remove the pan from the *heat*.
4 [*singular*] *chiefly US* : a system that is used to provide warmth to a room or building • The house uses electric/gas/oil/solar *heat*. [=*heating*] • Would you please turn up/down the *heat*? [=(*Brit*) *heating*]
5 [*noncount*] **a** : strong and often angry feelings • It's a topic that generates a lot of *heat*. • He responded with some *heat* [=he responded in an angry way] to the accusations. **b** : the time when emotions are most strongly felt — used in phrases like ***in the heat of passion, in the heat of the moment***, etc. • The crime was committed *in the heat of passion*. [=when the criminal was very angry] • She said things in *the heat of the moment* [=when she was angry for a short period of time] that she later regretted. — see also *in the heat of (the) battle* at [1]BATTLE
6 [*noncount*] *chiefly US, informal* **a *the heat*** : pressure to do something • The administration is ***putting the heat on*** legislators to approve the tax bill. • She's at her best when ***the heat is on***. [=when she feels a lot of pressure; when she needs to finish something quickly] • The company has ***turned up the heat on*** [=has put extra pressure on] its employees to finish the job quickly. ✧ The expression ***if you can't stand/take the heat, get out of the kitchen*** means that you should not try to do a difficult job if you cannot deal with the pressure and problems that are part of the job. **b** : criticism or abuse • He will likely take/get a lot of *heat* for his decision.
7 [*count*] : one of several races or contests that are held in order to decide who will be in the final race or contest • The top two finishers in each *heat* will move on to the finals. — see also DEAD HEAT

in heat (*US*) *or Brit* ***on heat*** — used to describe a female animal that is ready to have sex and is able to become pregnant • The cat is *in heat*. • like a dog *in heat* • an animal that is ***coming into heat*** [=beginning to be in heat]

more heat than light ✧ To produce or generate *more heat than light* means to cause anger without helping to make something better understood. • Her first book on the issue generated *more heat than light*.

pack heat *US slang, old-fashioned + humorous* : to carry a gun • a thug who was *packing heat*

– see also PRICKLY HEAT
– **heat•less** /ˈhiːtləs/ *adj* • *heatless* buildings

[2]heat *verb* **heats**; **heat•ed**; **heat•ing** [+ *obj*] : to cause (something) to become warm or hot • I *heated* the vegetables in the microwave. • They *heat* their house with a wood stove.
heat up [*phrasal verb*] **1** : to become warm or hot • The morning started out cold but it *heated up* quickly. **2** : to become more active, intense, or angry • Their conversation started to *heat up*. [=(*Brit*) *hot up*] • Competition between the two companies is *heating up*. **3 *heat (something) up* or *heat up (something)*** : to cause (something) to become warm or hot • Could you *heat up* the vegetables, please? — see also PREHEAT

heat•ed /ˈhiːtəd/ *adj*
1 : including a system that provides warmth • a *heated* pool/apartment
2 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : marked by excited or angry feelings • a *heated* argument/debate/dispute • Their conversation/discussion quickly became *heated*.
– **heat•ed•ly** *adv* • He *heatedly* denied the rumors.

heat•er /ˈhiːtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a machine that heats water or air • a water *heater* — see also SPACE HEATER

heat exhaustion *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : a condition that happens when someone is too active in extremely hot conditions and that causes a person to sweat and feel very weak, dizzy, etc. — called also (*chiefly US*) *heat prostration*; compare HEATSTROKE

heath /ˈhiːθ/ *noun, pl* **heaths** [*count*] : an area of land that is covered with grass and small shrubs

hea•then /ˈhiːðən/ *noun, pl* **hea•thens** *or* **heathen** [*count*] *old-fashioned + often offensive* : a person who is not religious or who does not practice Christianity, Judaism, or Islam
– **heathen** *adj* • *heathen* gods/practices • a *heathen* people/nation

heath•er /ˈhɛðɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a low-growing plant of northern areas that has small leaves and tiny white or purplish-pink flowers

Heath Rob•in•son /ˌhiːθˈrɑːbənsən/ *adj, always used before a noun, Brit* : RUBE GOLDBERG • a *Heath Robinson* contraption/device

heating *noun* [*noncount*] : a system that is used to provide warmth to a room or building • a house with electric *heating* [=*heat*] • (*Brit*) Would you please turn up/down the *heating*? [=(*US*) *heat*] • The house has ***central heating***. [=a system that heats all parts of a building]

heat lightning *noun* [*noncount*] *chiefly US* : flashes of light in the sky that happen without the sound of thunder and that are produced by distant lightning

heat·proof /ˈhi:tˌpru:f/ *adj* : not able to be burned or melted ▪ a *heatproof* bowl/dish/plate

heat prostration *noun* [*noncount*] *chiefly US, medical* : HEAT EXHAUSTION

heat rash *noun, pl* ~ **rashes** [*count, noncount*] *medical* : a skin rash that people sometimes get during hot weather : PRICKLY HEAT

heat resistant *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not easily burned or melted ▪ *heat resistant* cooking utensils

heat–seeking *adj, always used before a noun* : designed to follow the heat from an airplane or rocket in order to destroy it ▪ *heat-seeking* missiles

heat·stroke /ˈhi:tˌstrouk/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : a serious condition that happens when someone has been in high temperatures for a long time and that causes a person to stop sweating, have a very high body temperature, and become exhausted or unconscious — compare HEAT EXHAUSTION, SUNSTROKE

heat wave *noun, pl* ~ **waves** [*count*] : a period of unusually hot weather

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[1]heave /ˈhi:v/ *verb* **heaves**; **heaved**; **heav·ing**

1 : to lift or pull (something) with effort [+ *obj*] We *heaved* the box (up) onto the table. ▪ I tried to *heave* myself (up) out of the chair. ▪ She *heaved* the door shut. [*no obj*] — usually + *on* ▪ The sailors started *heaving on* the rope.

2 [+ *obj*] *US* : to throw (something) with effort ▪ *heave* a rock ▪ The quarterback *heaved* the ball down the field.

3 [+ *obj*] : to breathe in and breathe out (a sigh) in a slow or loud way ▪ She sat down and *heaved* a sigh of relief.

4 [*no obj*] **a** : to move up and down repeatedly ▪ He stopped running and stood there with his chest *heaving*. ▪ The boat *heaved* up and down with the waves. **b** : to be pushed up ▪ The roads have begun to *heave* with frost.

5 [*no obj*] *informal* : VOMIT ▪ The smell made me want to *heave*. ✧ If your ***stomach is heaving***, you feel like vomiting.

heave into view *or* ***heave in/into sight*** *past tense and past participle* ***hove*** : to slowly move closer and become visible ▪ A ship *hove into view* on the horizon.

heave to [*phrasal verb*] *past tense and past participle* ***hove*** *of a boat or ship* : to stop moving ▪ The ship *hove to*.

– see also HEAVING

[2]heave *noun, pl* **heaves** [*count*]

1 : an act of lifting or pulling something with effort ▪ We lifted the box onto the table with a *heave*. ▪ He gave the rope a mighty *heave*.

2 : a forceful throw ▪ The quarterback uncorked a mighty *heave*.

– see also DRY HEAVES

heave–ho /ˈhi:vˈhou/ *noun*

the (old) heave-ho *informal* : the act of causing someone to leave a job, place, or relationship ▪ The team's coach ***gave him the heave-ho*** [=made him leave the team] ▪ We ***got the old heave-ho*** [=we got kicked out; we had to leave] when we couldn't pay the rent on our apartment.

heav·en /ˈhɛvən/ *noun, pl* **-ens**

1 *or* ***Heaven*** [*singular*] : the place where God lives and where good people go after they die according to some religions ▪ She prayed to God in *Heaven*. ▪ He hopes to go to *Heaven* when he dies. ▪ Our baby is a gift from *heaven*.

2 [*noncount*] : something that is very pleasant or good ▪ The week at the beach was (sheer/pure) *heaven*. ▪ (*chiefly US*) The cake tastes ***like heaven*** [=it is delicious] ▪ Her voice sounded *like heaven*. [=it sounded very beautiful]

3 ***the heavens*** : the sky ▪ the brightest star in *the heavens* ▪ ***The heavens opened (up)*** [=it began to rain] and the game had to be stopped.

4 — used informally by itself and in phrases to make a statement or question more forceful or to express surprise, anger, etc. ▪ "Have you ever committed a crime?" "*Heavens*, no!" ▪ ***Good heavens*** You startled me. ▪ ***Heaven's above***, I haven't seen you in a while. ▪ ***My heavens***, [=(more commonly) *my goodness*] you've grown! ▪ Who ***in heaven's name*** [=*on earth, in God's name*] could that be? ▪ Where *in heaven's name* have you been? ▪ ***For heaven's sake***, turn down that music!

(a) heaven on earth : a very pleasant or enjoyable place or situation ▪ We spent our vacation in *a* real *heaven on earth*. ▪ The time we spent together was *heaven on earth*.

heaven forbid see FORBID

heaven help someone see [1]HELP

heaven knows see [1]KNOW

made in heaven : very good and successful ▪ Theirs was ***a marriage made in heaven*** ▪ Our partnership is ***a match made in heaven***

move heaven and earth see [1]MOVE

thank heaven/heavens see THANK

to high heaven *informal* : very much, very badly, etc. ▪ The kids were laughing and screaming *to high heaven*. [=very loudly] ▪ This whole situation ***stinks to high heaven*** [=it stinks; it is very bad or wrong]

– see also HOG HEAVEN, SEVENTH HEAVEN

heav·en·ly /ˈhɛvənli/ *adj*

1 *always used before a noun* : appearing or occurring in the sky ▪ the moon, stars, and other ***heavenly bodies***

2 *always used before a noun* : of or relating to heaven : divine or blessed ▪ *heavenly* angels/choirs ▪ *heavenly* grace

3 [*more* ~; *most* ~] *informal* : very pleasant or good ▪ The weather was *heavenly*. ▪ a *heavenly* dessert

heav·en–sent /ˈhɛvənˌsɛnt/ *adj* : very lucky or helpful ▪ a *heaven-sent* opportunity ▪ Her advice was *heaven-sent*.

heav·en·ward /ˈhɛvənwəd/ *also chiefly Brit* **heav·en·wards** /ˈhɛvənwədz/ *adv* : toward the sky ▪ Lift your eyes *heavenward*.

heavi·ly /ˈhɛvəli/ *adv* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : to a great degree : very much ▪ *heavily* salted foods ▪ *heavily* armored vehicles ▪ *heavily* populated/forested areas ▪ He relies *heavily* on his wife for advice. ▪ These artists borrow *heavily* from Picasso. ▪ Our flowers were *heavily* damaged by a late spring frost. ▪ She drank and smoked *heavily* for years. ▪ The decision weighs *heavily* on my mind. [=the decision is difficult and causes me to feel worried]

2 : in a slow or heavy way ▪ He sat down *heavily* on the couch. ▪ He was leaning *heavily* on the table. ▪ She sighed *heavily* then said "Okay, I'll do it."

heaving *adj, Brit* : filled with people and activity ▪ The shop was *heaving* [=*teeming*] with customers.

[1]heavy /ˈhɛvi/ *adj* **heavi·er**; **-est**

1 a : having great weight : difficult to lift or move ▪ "Is that box too *heavy* for you to lift?" "No, it's not very *heavy*." ▪ a *heavy* suitcase ▪ *heavy* pots and pans ▪ The truck was carrying a *heavy* load. — opposite LIGHT **b** : large in size and weight ▪ The man was six feet tall with a *heavy* build. ▪ a tall, *heavy* [=(less politely) *fat*] man

2 : having a particular weight ▪ How *heavy* is it? [=how much does it weigh?]

3 a : greater in amount or degree than usual ▪ Turnout for the election is expected to be *heavy*. ▪ We got caught in *heavy* traffic. **b** : strong ▪ *heavy* perfume ▪ *heavy* winds **c** : great in amount ▪ *Heavy* rains caused flooding in the area. ▪ *heavy* bleeding/sweating ▪ She was wearing sunglasses and *heavy* makeup. ▪ The storm caused *heavy* damage to the building. ▪ The company is facing *heavy* losses this quarter. ▪ We suffered *heavy* casualties. [=many deaths or injuries] ▪ a day of *heavy* fighting **d** : difficult to accept or bear ▪ They are paying a *heavy* price for their mistakes. ▪ It is a *heavy* burden for one person to bear. : harsh or severe ▪ The stress has taken a *heavy* toll on his health. ▪ *heavy* fines/penalties **e** : great in degree or effect ▪ He came under *heavy* attack/fire for his comments. ▪ She is the *heavy* favorite to win. ▪ the country's *heavy* reliance on oil ▪ (*chiefly Brit*) He caught a *heavy* cold. — opposite LIGHT

4 : involving a lot of physical effort ▪ an hour of *heavy* exercise/exertion ▪ Why do I have to do all the ***heavy work***? ▪ I hurt my back and couldn't do any ***heavy lifting*** — sometimes used figuratively ▪ He does all the *heavy lifting* [=difficult work] while his partner gets the recognition. — opposite LIGHT

5 : very loud or forceful ▪ The song has a *heavy* beat. ▪ There was a *heavy* knock at the door. ▪ *heavy* footsteps ▪ He delivered a ***heavy blow*** to his opponent. — often used figuratively ▪ The new government was dealt a *heavy blow*. — opposite LIGHT

6 : important and serious ▪ We were having a *heavy* conversation about our son's future. ▪ This is pretty *heavy* stuff. ▪ doing some *heavy* reading/thinking ▪ a *heavy* thinker — opposite LIGHT

7 : difficult to move or lift up because of tiredness ▪ My legs became *heavier* with every step. ▪ Her eyelids grew *heavy*.

8 : dense and thick : having a lot of hair, trees, etc., in a small area ▪ He has a *heavy* beard. ▪ The animals have shed their *heavy* winter coats. ▪ areas of forest and *heavy* brush ▪ *heavy* fog/smoke ▪ *heavy* clay soil — opposite LIGHT

9 : made of thick material ▪ a *heavy* winter coat ▪ *heavy* blankets
10 : having too much heat, moisture, etc., and not enough fresh air ▪ The air was *heavy* and still. ▪ The air in the room was *heavy* with smoke. ▪ the *heavy* odor of wet dogs
11 a : showing signs of rain or snow ▪ sailing in *heavy* weather ▪ a *heavy* sky ▪ *heavy* clouds **b** : having large waves ▪ *heavy* seas
12 : deep and loud ▪ She let out a *heavy* sigh. ▪ the *heavy* breathing of a tired runner ✧ The phrase ***heavy breathing*** is sometimes used in a joking way to refer to sexual activity. ▪ a night of *heavy breathing*
13 a : eating, drinking, or using large amounts of something ▪ a *heavy* eater/drinker/smoker ▪ a cook who has a ***heavy hand*** with the salt [=who uses too much salt] **b** : done often and in large amounts ▪ *heavy* alcohol consumption ▪ Years of *heavy* smoking had destroyed her lungs. — opposite LIGHT
14 a : very rich, dense, or thick ▪ fruit in *heavy* syrup ▪ The bread was a little *heavy*. **b** : making your stomach feel full ▪ *heavy* desserts ▪ a *heavy* breakfast of pancakes and sausage — opposite LIGHT
15 a : large and powerful ▪ *heavy* machinery/equipment ▪ the army's tanks and *heavy* artillery ▪ He flew *heavy* bombers in World War II. **b** *of a group of soldiers* : having more weapons and armor than other groups ▪ *heavy* infantry/cavalry — opposite LIGHT
16 *of a person's accent* : very easy to notice ▪ She spoke French/English/German with a *heavy* [=*thick*] accent.
heavy date *chiefly US, humorous* : an important romantic date ▪ He has a *heavy date* tonight.
heavy going : difficult to do or finish ▪ The cold made the race *heavy going* for many runners. ▪ The book is really *heavy going* at the beginning.
heavy heart ✧ If you have a *heavy heart*, you are sad. ▪ I announced my decision to leave with a *heavy heart*.
heavy on : having or using a large amount of (something) ▪ His movies are light/low on talk and *heavy on* action. ▪ She tends to be *heavy on* the salt. [=she uses a lot of salt]
heavy sleeper : someone who does not wake up easily
heavy with : carrying or having a large amount of (something) ▪ The trees are *heavy with* fruit. ▪ Her comments were *heavy with* irony.
hot and heavy see [1]HOT
make heavy weather of *Brit, informal* : to treat (something) in a way that makes it seem more important or difficult than it really is ▪ an actor who *makes heavy weather of* what should be a simple scene
– **heavi•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] the *heaviness* of the table [*singular*] He felt a sudden *heaviness* [=a feeling of pressure] in his chest. — often used figuratively ▪ There was a *heaviness* [=a feeling of sadness] in his heart.

[2]heavy *adv* : in a heavy way : HEAVILY ▪ The smoke hung/lay *heavy* in the air. ▪ The decision weighs *heavy* on my mind. [=the decision is difficult and causes me to feel worried]
go heavy on : to use a lot of (something) ▪ *Go heavy on* the sauce, please.
heavy on your hands ✧ If time hangs or lies *heavy on your hands*, it passes very slowly. ▪ Time hung *heavy on his hands*.

[3]heavy *noun, pl* **heav•ies** [*count*]
1 : a bad person in a movie or play : VILLAIN ▪ He played the *heavy* in film after film.
2 *US, informal* : a person or thing that is serious, important, or powerful : HEAVYWEIGHT ▪ The conference will be attended by several media *heavies*. ▪ They have become one of the industry *heavies*.

heavy cream *noun* [*noncount*] *US* : very thick cream — called also (*Brit*) *double cream*

heavy–du•ty /ˈhɛviˈduːti, *Brit* ˈhɛviˈdjuːti/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : designed to do difficult work without breaking ▪ *heavy-duty* vehicles/machines
2 *US* : very intense or serious ▪ *heavy-duty* efforts ▪ a *heavy-duty* conservative ▪ I need to do some *heavy-duty* studying. ▪ Her plan is facing some *heavy-duty* opposition.

heavy goods vehicle *noun, pl* ~ **-hicles** [*count*] *Brit* : HGV

heavy–hand•ed /ˈhɛviˈhændəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : dealing with people or problems in a severe or harsh way : too strict or controlling ▪ Their efforts to keep the peace have been *heavy-handed*. ▪ *heavy-handed* tactics/measures
2 : awkward or clumsy : showing a lack of skill ▪ Her love songs tend to be a bit *heavy-handed*. ▪ a writer with a *heavy-handed* style
– **heavy–hand•ed•ly** *adv* – **heavy–hand•ed•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

heavy hitter *noun, pl* ~ **-ters** [*count*] *US, informal* : an important or powerful person or thing ▪ She spoke to a room full of political *heavy hitters*. ▪ Their company is one of the industry's *heavy hitters*.

heavy industry *noun* [*noncount*] : the production of goods (such as coal or steel) that are used to make other goods — compare LIGHT INDUSTRY

heavy metal *noun, pl* ~ **-als**
1 [*noncount*] : a type of loud rock music that has a strong beat ▪ He listens to *heavy metal*.
2 [*count, noncount*] *technical* : a metal that is very dense and heavy ▪ lead, gold, and other *heavy metals*

heavy•set /ˌhɛviˈsɛt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having a heavy and often somewhat fat body : THICKSET ▪ a short, *heavyset* man

heavy•weight /ˈhɛviˌweɪt/ *noun, pl* **-weights** [*count*]
1 : a fighter in the heaviest class of boxers : a boxer who weighs more than 175 pounds (79.5 kilograms) — often used before another noun ▪ They are fighting for the *heavyweight* title. ▪ the *heavyweight* champion of the world
2 : someone or something that is very important and powerful ▪ Their company is one of the industry's *heavyweights*.
3 : something that is heavy — often used before another noun ▪ *heavyweight* paper ▪ *heavyweight* cotton/wool/silk

He•bra•ic /hɪˈbrejɪk/ *adj* : of or relating to the Hebrews or their language or culture ▪ *Hebraic* traditions ▪ *Hebraic* texts/music

He•brew /ˈhiːbru/ *noun, pl* **-brews**
1 [*count*] : a member of an ancient group of people who lived mostly in the kingdom of Israel and practiced Judaism
2 [*noncount*] **a** : the language of the ancient Hebrews **b** : the language of modern Israel
– **Hebrew** *adj* ▪ the *Hebrew* people/Bible

heck /ˈhɛk/ *noun* [*noncount*] *informal* — used as a more polite form of *hell* ▪ Oh, *heck*, I forgot my keys. ▪ "Did you give her any money?" "*Heck*, no!" ▪ They were mad ***as heck***. ▪ I decided to go just ***for the heck of it***. ▪ It was one ***heck of a*** good fight. ▪ Where ***in (the) heck*** did I put my keys? ▪ My back hurts ***like heck***. ▪ Let's get ***the heck*** out of here. ▪ ***What the heck*** was that? ▪ *What the heck*, let's try it.

heck•le /ˈhɛkəl/ *verb* **heck•les**; **heck•led**; **heck•ling** : to interrupt (someone, such as a speaker or performer) by shouting annoying or rude comments or questions [+ *obj*] Several protesters were *heckling* the speaker at the rally. ▪ The players were being *heckled* by the fans. [*no obj*] People in the crowd were booing and *heckling* as she tried to speak.
– **heck•ler** /ˈhɛklɚ/ *noun, pl* **-lers** [*count*] ▪ There were several *hecklers* at the rally. – **heckling** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ She was upset by the crowd's *heckling*.

hect•are /ˈhɛkˌteɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ares** [*count*] : a unit of area in the metric system that is equal to 10,000 square meters or 2.47 acres

hec•tic /ˈhɛktɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : very busy and filled with activity ▪ We both had *hectic* days at work. ▪ She maintains a *hectic* schedule as a journalist and mother. ▪ a *hectic* lifestyle
– **hec•ti•cal•ly** /ˈhɛktɪkli/ *adv* ▪ *hectically* busy

hec•tor /ˈhɛktɚ/ *verb* **-tors**; **-tored**; **-tor•ing** [+ *obj*] : to criticize or question (someone) in a threatening way ▪ The judge ordered the attorney to stop *hectoring* the witness.
– **hectoring** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ a *hectoring* tone of voice

he'd /ˈhiːd, id/ — used as a contraction of *he had* or *he would* ▪ He thought *he'd* [=*he had*] better be leaving. ▪ *He'd* [=*he would*] have done the same thing himself.

[1]hedge /ˈhɛʤ/ *noun, pl* **hedg•es** [*count*]
1 : a row of shrubs or small trees that are planted close to each other in order to form a boundary
2 : something that provides protection or defense — usually + *against* ▪ She invests her money as a *hedge against* inflation. ▪ *hedges against* loss/disappointment/uncertainty/failure

[2]hedge *verb* **hedges**; **hedged**; **hedg•ing**
1 [+ *obj*] : to surround (an area) with a hedge ▪ The garden is *hedged* by flowering shrubs.
2 : to avoid giving a promise or direct answer [*no obj*] She *hedged* when she was asked to support the campaign. [+ *obj*] He *hedged* his earlier comments about the need for new management.
hedge against [*phrasal verb*] ***hedge against (something)*** : to

protect yourself from (something) ▪ They *hedge against* inflation by investing their money. ▪ looking for ways to *hedge against* risk/failure

hedge around *or* ***hedge about*** [*phrasal verb*] ***hedge (something) around/about*** *Brit* : to limit or restrict (something) — usually used as *(be) hedged*; usually + *with* or *by* ▪ Their offer *is* so *hedged around with* conditions [=so restricted by conditions] that it hardly seems worthwhile. ▪ a rule that *is hedged about* by exceptions

hedge in [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***hedge in (something)*** *or* ***hedge (something) in*** : to form a boundary around (something) ▪ a field *hedged in* [=*surrounded*] by trees **2** ***hedge in (someone)*** *or* ***hedge (someone) in*** : to surround or restrict (someone) in a way that prevents free movement or action ▪ We have been *hedged in* by their rules and regulations.

hedge your bets : to do things that will prevent great loss or failure if future events do not happen as you plan or hope ▪ They decided to *hedge their bets* by putting half their money in stocks and the other half in bonds.

hedge fund *noun, pl* ~ **funds** [*count*] *finance* : a group of investors who take financial risks together in order to try to earn a lot of money

hedge•hog /ˈhɛʤˌhɑːg/ *noun, pl* **-hogs** [*count*] : a small, brown animal of Europe, Asia, and Africa that has sharp spines on its back and that can roll itself up into a ball



hedgehog

hedge•row /ˈhɛʤˌroʊ/ *noun, pl* **-rows** [*count*] : a row of shrubs or trees that form the boundary of an area

he•do•nism /ˈhiːdəˌnɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the belief that pleasure or happiness is the most important goal in life

– **he•do•nis•tic** /ˌhiːdəˈnɪstɪk/ *adj* ▪ a *hedonistic* lifestyle – **he•do•nis•ti•cal•ly** /ˌhiːdəˈnɪstɪkli/ *adv*

he•do•nist /ˈhiːdənɪst/ *noun, pl* **-nists** [*count*] : a person who believes that pleasure or happiness is the most important goal in life

hee•bie–jee•bies /ˌhiːbiˈʤiːbiz/ *noun*

the heebie-jeebies *informal* : nervous feelings ▪ He gave me *the heebie-jeebies*. [=he made me feel nervous] ▪ I got *the heebie-jeebies* when I saw him looking at me.

[1]heed /ˈhiːd/ *verb* **heeds**; **heed•ed**; **heed•ing** [+ *obj*] : to pay attention to (advice, a warning, etc.) ▪ She failed to *heed* the warnings. ▪ We must *heed* the words of our leaders [=listen to our leaders' advice] and make peace. ▪ Many people have *heeded* his call to volunteer. [=listened to him and volunteered]

[2]heed *noun* [*noncount*] : attention or notice — often used with *pay* or *take* ▪ She *pays* no *heed* to the concerns of others. ▪ She does not *pay* their concerns any *heed*. ▪ Sailors *take heed*. [=listen to this warning] A storm is on the way. ▪ He failed to ***take heed of*** our advice. = He failed to ***pay heed to*** our advice. [=he failed to follow our advice]

heed•less /ˈhiːdləs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not paying careful attention ▪ They remain *heedless of* their own safety. ▪ the *heedless* use of natural resources ▪ *heedless* waste

– **heed•less•ly** *adv*

[1]heel /ˈhiːl/ *noun, pl* **heels**

1 [*count*] : the back part of your foot that is below the ankle — see picture at FOOT

2 a [*count*] : the part of a shoe or sock that covers the heel of your foot **b** [*count*] : the part of the bottom of a shoe or boot that is under the heel of your foot ▪ shoes with low/high/cushioned *heels* — see picture at SHOE; see also HIGH HEELS, SPIKE HEELS, STILETTO HEEL **c** ***heels*** [*plural*] *informal* : shoes with high heels ▪ She does not like wearing *heels*.

3 [*count*] : the part of the inside of your hand that is closest to your wrist ▪ She scraped the *heel* of her hand.

4 [*count*] : the end of a loaf of bread

5 [*count*] *old-fashioned* : a bad or selfish man ▪ I felt like a *heel* when I couldn't stop to help.

at someone's heels : following someone very closely ▪ The dog was (nipping) *at my heels*. ▪ He once had a big lead in the campaign, but now the other candidates are nipping *at his heels*.

cool your heels see [2]COOL

dig in your heels see [1]DIG

drag your heels see [1]DRAG

head over heels see [1]HEAD

kick up your heels see [1]KICK

on someone's or something's heels **1** ✧ If you are ***(close/hard/hot) on someone's or something's heels***, you are chasing or following that person or thing very closely. The police were *hot on his heels*. **2** ✧ If something comes or follows ***close/hard/hot on something's heels*** or ***close/hard/hot on the heels of something***, it happens very soon afterward. ▪ Her decision drew much criticism, and so did the explanation that followed *hard on its heels*. ▪ Her second movie followed *close on the heels of* her successful film debut. ▪ His resignation comes *hard on the heels of* the announcement that the company is going bankrupt.

spin/turn on your heel : to turn away from someone in a very quick or sudden way ▪ He told us he had nothing more to say, then he *turned on his heel* and walked away.

take to your heels : to begin to run away ▪ They *took to their heels* when they saw the policeman approaching.

to heel **1** : to a position that is close behind ▪ She called the dog *to heel*. [=she told the dog to return close to her] ▪ The dog came *to heel*. **2** : into a controlled or obedient condition ▪ We hope these measures will help to ***bring*** inflation ***to heel***. [=will help to control inflation] ▪ The President is trying to *bring to heel* his opponents in the legislature. [=to force his opponents to do what he wants them to do] They are not likely to ***come to heel***.

under heel ✧ If you are ***under the heel of someone*** or ***under someone's heel*** or *US* ***under heel***, you are completely controlled by another person, group, etc. ▪ They put us *under their heel*. ▪ They kept us *under heel*.

– see also ACHILLES' HEEL, DOWN-AT-THE-HEELS, WELL HEELED

[2]heel *verb* **heels**; **heeled**; **heel•ing** [*no obj*]

1 — used as a command to tell a dog to walk next to you *Heel*! Good dog.

2 *of a boat or ship* : to lean to one side ▪ The boat *heeled* (over) in the strong wind.

[1]heft /ˈhɛft/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : weight or heaviness ▪ the *heft* of a good hammer

2 *chiefly US* : importance or influence ▪ She uses her political *heft* [=(more commonly) *clout*] to get bills passed.

[2]heft *verb* **hefts**; **heft•ed**; **heft•ing** [+ *obj*] *chiefly US* : to lift (something) up ▪ He *hefted* the suitcase (up) onto the bed.

hefty /ˈhɛfti/ *adj* **heft•i•er**; **-est**

1 : large and heavy ▪ He was a tall, *hefty* man. ▪ a *hefty* book : big and strong ▪ *hefty* football players

2 : very large ▪ Her boss gave her a *hefty* raise. ▪ The new equipment comes with a *hefty* price tag. [=it is expensive] ▪ a *hefty* amount/fee/payment/sum ▪ a *hefty* dose of irony

3 : very forceful ▪ He gave the door a *hefty* kick/shove.

– **heft•i•ly** /ˈhɛftəli/ *adv* – **heft•i•ness** /ˈhɛftinəs/ *noun* [*noncount*]

he•ge•mo•ny /hɪˈʤɛməni, *Brit* hɪˈgɛməni/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : influence or control over another country, a group of people, etc. ▪ They discussed the national government's *hegemony* over their tribal community.

heif•er /ˈhɛfɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a young female cow *especially* : one that has not had a calf

height /ˈhaɪt/ *noun, pl* **heights**

1 : a measurement of how tall a person or thing is : the distance from the bottom to the top of a person or thing [*count*] What's the *height* of the building? ▪ These bushes grow to *heights* of up to five feet. [*noncount*] a woman of average *height* ▪ We were measured for *height* and weight. ▪ The ride has a *height* requirement. You have to be four feet tall to ride. ▪ He is six feet ***in height***. [=(more commonly) he is six feet tall] ▪ She rose/stood (up) to her ***full height***. [=she stood straight up] — see picture at GEOMETRY

2 [*noncount*] : the condition of being tall ▪ I was surprised by his *height*.

3 [*count*] : the distance above a level or surface ▪ The land reaches a *height* of 600 feet above sea level. ▪ The *height* of the ceiling is eight feet. [=the ceiling is eight feet above the floor; the ceiling is eight feet high]

4 [*count*] **a** : a great distance above the ground ▪ It was frightening to look down from such a dizzying/great *height* — usually plural ▪ I'm afraid of *heights*. **b** : an area that is higher than the areas around it ▪ The soldiers left the *heights* they were defending. — usually plural; often used in the names of places ▪ We used to live in Washington *Heights*. the Golan *Heights*

5 [*singular*] : the most advanced or extreme point of some

thing ▪ During the *height* of the violence, dozens of people lost their lives. ▪ He was ***at the height of*** his fame when he died. [=he died when he was most famous] ▪ ***At its height***, their civilization was the greatest in the world.

6 *heights* [*plural*] : very good or successful levels ▪ Her popularity rose/soared to great *heights*. ▪ They have taken the company to new *heights*.

7 *the height of* — used to say that something is an extreme example of something ▪ It was *the height of* stupidity to quit the team. [=it was extremely stupid to quit the team] ▪ *the height of* arrogance/folly/hypocrisy ▪ Long skirts are now *the height of* fashion. [=are now extremely fashionable] ▪ *the height of* style/luxury

height•en /ˈhaɪtn̩/ *verb* **-ens**; **-ened**; **-en•ing** : to increase the amount, degree, or extent of (something) : INCREASE [+ *obj*] The plan will only *heighten* tensions between the two groups. ▪ This tragedy has *heightened* our awareness of the need for improved safety measures. [*no obj*] Tensions between the two groups have *heightened*.

– **heightened** *adj* ▪ The meeting now has *heightened* [=*more, greater*] significance.

hei•nie /ˈhaɪni/ *noun, pl* **-nies** [*count*] *US slang* : the part of the body you sit on : BUTTOCKS ▪ Get off your *heinie* and do some work.

hei•nous /ˈheɪnəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : very bad or evil : deserving of hate or contempt ▪ These murders were especially *heinous*. ▪ people accused of committing *heinous* crimes/acts

– **hei•nous•ly** *adv* – **hei•nous•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

heir /ˈeɚ/ *noun, pl* **heirs** [*count*]

1 : a person who has the legal right to receive the property of someone who dies ▪ His *heirs* could inherit millions of dollars. — often + *to* ▪ She is the sole *heir to* her family's fortune.

2 : a person who has the right to become a king or queen or to claim a title when the person holding it dies ▪ The king left no *heirs* when he died.

heir apparent *noun, pl* **heirs apparent** [*count*]

1 : an heir whose right to receive money, property, or a title cannot be taken away ▪ The Prince of Wales is (the) *heir apparent* to the throne of England.

2 : a person who is very likely to have a job or position after the person who has it now leaves ▪ The coach named her assistant as her *heir apparent*.

heir•ess /ˈerəs/ *noun, pl* **-ess•es** [*count*] : a girl or woman who is an heir; *especially* : a girl or woman who inherits a large amount of money

heir•loom /ˈeɚˌluːm/ *noun, pl* **-looms** [*count*]

1 : a valuable object that is owned by a family for many years and passed from one generation to another ▪ a priceless family *heirloom*

2 *US* : an old type of plant that is still available because individual people have continued to grow it for many years — usually used before another noun ▪ *heirloom* tomatoes ▪ *heirloom* roses

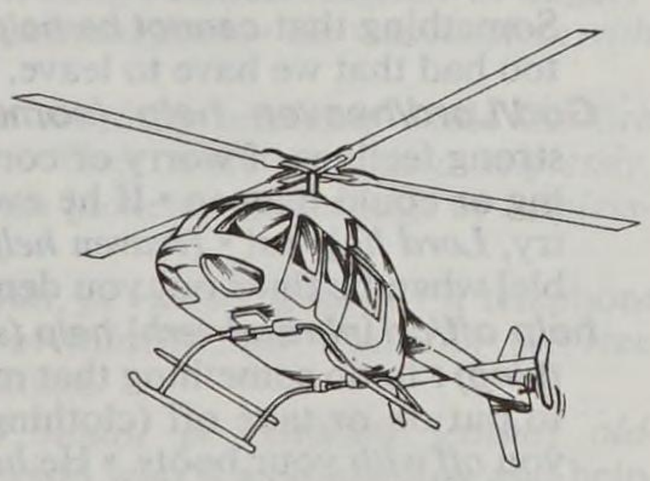
heist /ˈhaɪst/ *noun, pl* **heists** [*count*] *chiefly US, informal* : an act of stealing something from a bank or store ▪ bank *heists* ▪ a jewel *heist*

– **heist** *verb* **heists**; **heist•ed**; **heist•ing** [+ *obj*] ▪ The jewels were *heisted* [=*stolen*] last night.

held *past tense of* ¹HOLD

helices *plural of* HELIX

he•li•cop•ter /ˈhɛləˌkɑːptɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*] : an aircraft that can stay in the air without moving forward and that has metal blades that turn around on its top



helicopter

he•lio•cen•tric /ˌhiːlijoʊˈsɛntrɪk/ *adj* : having or relating to the sun as the center ▪ Galileo proposed the *heliocentric* theory that the Earth goes around the sun. — compare GEOCENTRIC

he•li•pad /ˈhɛləˌpæd/ *noun, pl* **-pads** [*count*] : a special area where a helicopter can take off and land ▪ The building has a *helipad* on its roof.

he•li•port /ˈhɛləˌpoɚt/ *noun, pl* **-ports** [*count*] : a small airport that is designed for use by helicopters

he•li•um /ˈhiːlijəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a chemical element that is a colorless gas, that is lighter than air, and that is often used to fill balloons

he•lix /ˈhiːlɪks/ *noun, pl* **-li•ces** /ˈhɛləˌsiːz/ *also* **-lix•es** [*count*] : the shape formed by a line that curves around and along a central line : SPIRAL — see also DOUBLE HELIX

– **he•li•cal** /ˈhɛlɪkəl/ *adj*

hell /ˈhɛl/ *noun*

1 *or* ***Hell*** [*singular*] : the place where the devil lives and where evil people go after they die according to some religions

2 : a very difficult or unpleasant situation or experience [*noncount*] Getting the loan approved was pure/sheer *hell*. ▪ He ***went through hell*** during his divorce. ▪ She had to *go through hell* to get where she is today. [*singular*] Living with the disease can be a ***hell on earth***. ▪ The pain has made her life a ***living hell***.

3 *informal + impolite* — used to express anger, annoyance, etc. ▪ *Hell*, I don't know why he did it! ▪ But, *hell*, why not? ▪ Oh, *hell*, I forgot my keys. ▪ "Did you give her any money?" "*Hell*, no!"

all hell breaks loose *informal* — used to describe what happens when violent, destructive, and confused activity suddenly begins ▪ I heard people shouting at each other, and suddenly *all hell broke loose*.

as hell *informal + somewhat impolite* — used to make a statement more forceful ▪ It was (as) funny *as hell*. [=it was very funny] ▪ They were mad *as hell*. ▪ We've been working as hard *as hell* to finish on schedule. ▪ "Can you finish on schedule?" "We'll ***sure as hell*** try."

catch hell *chiefly US, informal + somewhat impolite* : to be yelled at or criticized in a very angry and severe way ▪ She *caught hell* (from her boss) for coming in late.

come hell or high water *informal* — used to say that something will definitely happen or be done even though other events or situations might make it difficult ▪ I will be there on time, *come hell or high water*.

for the hell of it *informal + somewhat impolite* : for the fun of doing something : without having a particular reason ▪ Just *for the hell of it*, I decided to go. ▪ He likes to start arguments *for the hell of it*.

from hell *informal + somewhat impolite* — used to describe someone or something that is very bad or unpleasant ▪ It was the vacation *from hell*: everything that could go wrong, did. ▪ bosses *from hell*

give (someone) hell *informal + somewhat impolite* : to yell at or criticize (someone) in an angry way ▪ Her boss *gave her hell* for coming in late. ▪ *Give them hell*, John!

go to hell *informal + impolite* **1** — used to show that you are very angry with someone ▪ I'm not coming, so you can just *go to hell*! ▪ He told his boss to *go to hell*. **2** : to become completely ruined : to fail completely ▪ The economy is *going to hell*.

go to hell in a handbasket see HANDBASKET

hell of a *informal + somewhat impolite* **1** — used to make a statement more forceful ▪ It was one *hell of a* good fight. [=it was a very good fight] ▪ He is one *hell of a* nice guy. **2** : very good ▪ She's a *hell of a* player. [=she's a very good player] **3** : very bad or difficult ▪ We've been having a *hell of a* time trying to finish on schedule. ▪ This is a *hell of a* mess we're in.

hell on *US, informal + somewhat impolite* — used to describe something that causes a lot of damage or trouble ▪ Running can be *hell on* your knees. [=can do a lot of harm to your knees] ▪ His constant traveling was *hell on* their relationship.

hell to pay see ¹PAY

in hell *informal + impolite* **1** — used to make a statement more forceful ▪ There is no way *in hell* I'm going! ▪ We don't have a hope *in hell* [=we have no hope] of getting out of this mess. **2** *or* ***in the hell*** *US* — used to make a question more forceful ▪ What *in hell* is wrong now? ▪ How *in the hell* did that happen?

like a bat out of hell see ³BAT

like hell *informal + impolite* **1** : very much ▪ My back hurts *like hell*. **2** : with a lot of energy and speed ▪ We've been working *like hell* since morning. ▪ When I say "go," run *like hell*. **3** : very bad ▪ This place looks *like hell*. **4** — used to say in an angry and forceful way that you will not do something, do not agree, etc. ▪ "You're coming with me!" "*Like hell* I am!" ▪ "It's your fault!" "*Like hell* it is!"

play hell with *or Brit* ***play merry hell with*** : to cause many problems for (someone or something) : to have a very bad effect on (someone or something) ▪ High oil prices are

playing hell with the nation's economy.

raise hell *informal + somewhat impolite* **1 :** to complain in a loud or angry way ▪ People are *raising hell* about the new law. **2 :** to behave wildly and make a lot of noise ▪ He and his friends used to get drunk and ***raise hell*** on the weekends. — see also HELL-RAISER

the hell *informal + impolite* **1** — used to make a statement or question more forceful ▪ Let's get *the hell* out of here. ▪ (*chiefly US*) They moved way *the hell* up north. ▪ How *the hell* did you do that? ▪ Who *the hell* do you think you are? ▪ What *the hell* is going on? **2** — used to say in an angry and forceful way that you will not do something, do not agree, etc. ▪ "You said you'd pay for it." "*The hell* I did!" [=I never said that] ▪ "It's your fault!" "*The hell* it is!" — see also WHAT THE HELL (below)

the hell out of *informal + impolite* — used for emphasis after words like *scare, frighten*, and *beat* ▪ That movie *scared the hell out of* me. [=scared me very badly] ▪ The boxer *beat the hell out of* his opponent.

to hell and back *informal* ✧ Someone who goes *to hell and back* experiences a very difficult or unpleasant situation often for a long time. ▪ She's been *to hell and back* since her daughter became ill.

to hell with *or* ***the hell with*** *informal + impolite* — used to say in a forceful and angry way that you do not care about someone or something. ▪ They want me to stop, but *to hell with* them! I'll do what I want to do!

what the hell *informal + impolite* **1** — used to express anger, surprise, etc. ▪ *What the hell*! Just what do you think you're doing!? **2** — used to say that you are not worried about or bothered by something ▪ So I figured, *what the hell*, let's give it a try. ▪ We lost a little money, but *what the hell*, it's not a big deal.

when hell freezes over *informal + impolite* — used to say that you think that something will never happen ▪ I'll apologize *when hell freezes over*. [=I'll never apologize]

he'll /hi:l, hɪl/ — used as a contraction of *he will* ▪ *He'll* be here soon.

hel·la·cious /ˌhɛˈleɪʃəs/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *chiefly US, informal* : very difficult, large, or powerful ▪ Traffic is *hellacious* this time of day. ▪ *hellacious* winds

hell–bent /ˈhɛlˌbɛnt/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : very determined to do something especially when the results might be bad — usually + *on* ▪ He's *hell-bent on* (getting) revenge. ▪ They seem to be *hell-bent on* starting a war. — sometimes followed by *to* + *verb* in U.S. English ▪ They seem to be *hell-bent to start* a war.

Hel·len·ic /hɛˈlɛnɪk/ *adj* : of or relating to ancient Greek culture

hell·fire /ˈhɛlˌfajɚ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the fire of Hell ▪ a minister who preaches *hellfire* and damnation [=who talks about how bad people will be tortured in Hell]

hell·hole /ˈhɛlˌhoʊl/ *noun, pl* **-holes** [*count*] *informal* : a very dirty or unpleasant place ▪ The factory is a *hellhole*.

hel·lion /ˈhɛljən/ *noun, pl* **-lions** [*count*] *US, informal* : a person (especially a child) who behaves badly ▪ My children can act like little *hellions* when they're bored.

hell·ish /ˈhɛlɪʃ/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : very bad, unpleasant, or shocking ▪ We've been having *hellish* weather lately. ▪ *hellish* living conditions ▪ The battlefield was a *hellish* scene of death and destruction.
– **hell·ish·ly** *adv*

hel·lo /həˈloʊ/ *noun, pl* **-los**
1 — used as a greeting ▪ *Hello* there! How are you? ▪ *Hello*, my name is Linda.
2 [*count*] : the act of saying the word *hello* to someone as a greeting ▪ We exchanged *hellos*. [=we said hello to each other] ▪ They welcomed us with a warm *hello*.
3 — used when you are answering the telephone ▪ *Hello*. Who's this? [=who is calling?] ▪ *Hello*. May I speak to Linda, please?
4 — used to get someone's attention ▪ *Hello*? Is anybody here?
5 — used to express surprise ▪ Well, *hello*! What do we have here?

hell–rais·er /ˈhɛlˌreɪzɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *informal + disapproving* : a person who behaves badly or causes trouble for others ▪ He said that the protesters were just a bunch of *hell-raisers*.
– **hell–rais·ing** /ˈhɛlˌreɪzɪŋ/ *adj* ▪ a group of *hell-raising* teenagers – **hell–raising** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ He did a lot of *hell-raising* when he was younger.

hell·uva /ˈhɛləvə/ — used in writing to represent the sound of the phrase *hell of a* ▪ He's a *helluva* nice guy. [=he's a very nice guy]

helm /ˈhɛlm/ *noun, pl* **helms**
1 [*count*] : a handle or wheel that is used to steer a ship or boat ▪ The ship's captain ***took the helm***. [=steered the ship] ▪ The ship's captain was ***at the helm***. [=steering the ship]
2 [*singular*] : a position of full control or authority in an organization ▪ She ***took the helm*** of the university. ▪ He left after only a year ***at the helm*** [=*in charge*] of the corporation.

hel·met /ˈhɛlmət/ *noun, pl* **-mets** [*count*] : a hard hat that is worn to protect your head — see also CRASH HELMET, PITH HELMET
– **hel·met·ed** /ˈhɛlmətəd/ *adj* ▪ *helmeted* warriors

helms·man /ˈhɛlmzmən/ *noun, pl* **-men** /-mən/ [*count*] : a person (especially a man) who steers a ship or boat

helms·per·son /ˈhɛlmzˌpɚsn̩/ *noun, pl* **-sons** [*count*] : a person who steers a ship or boat

[1]help /ˈhɛlp/ *verb* **helps; helped; help·ing**
1 : to do something that makes it easier for someone to do a job, to deal with a problem, etc. **:** to aid or assist someone [+ *obj*] Let me *help* you with that box. = Let me *help* you lift/carry that box. ▪ *help* a child with her homework = *help* a child (to) do her homework ▪ I *helped* her up/down the stairs. [=I gave her support so that she could go up/down the stairs] ▪ *Help* me! I'm drowning! [*no obj*] Don't blame me: I was only trying to *help*! ▪ She *helped* (to) set the table. ▪ *Help*! Somebody call the police!
2 : to make something less severe **:** to make something more pleasant or easier to deal with [+ *obj*] Rest *helps* a cold. ▪ She took an aspirin to *help* her headache. ▪ Some color would really *help* [=*improve*] this room. ▪ Humor often *helps* a tense situation. [*no obj*] Yelling doesn't *help*. ▪ It's not much money, but ***every little bit helps***. — often followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ It *helps to know* you care. [=I feel better because I know that you care]
3 [+ *obj*] **a :** to give (yourself or another person) food or drink ▪ There's plenty of food, so ***help yourself***. [=take as much food as you would like] — often + *to* ▪ He *helped* his neighbor *to* a glass of wine. ▪ *Help* yourself *to* whatever you'd like. **b** *informal* **:** to take something for (yourself) without permission ▪ He saw the money lying on the table, and he *helped himself*. [=he took the money] — usually + *to* ▪ He *helped himself to* the money.

can help ✧ If you ***can help something***, you can prevent it from happening. ▪ *Can* I *help it* [=is it my fault] if no one listens to my advice? ▪ There will be no more layoffs. At least ***not if I can help it***. [=if I can prevent it; if it is up to me]

cannot help **1** ✧ If you ***cannot help yourself***, you cannot control your actions or stop yourself from doing something. ▪ I know I shouldn't eat any more, but I *can't help myself*. ▪ They knew they shouldn't go, but they *couldn't help themselves*. **2** ✧ If you ***cannot help something***, you cannot stop it or prevent it. ▪ I *can't help loving you*. ▪ I know I shouldn't be angry, but I *can't help it*—it's just the way I feel. **3** ✧ If you ***cannot help doing something*** or ***cannot help but do something***, you cannot stop yourself from doing it. ▪ I *couldn't help having some dessert*. ▪ We *couldn't help laughing*. = We *couldn't help but laugh*. **4** ✧ Something that ***cannot be helped*** cannot be avoided. ▪ It's too bad that we have to leave, but it *can't be helped*.

God/Lord/heaven help (someone) — used to express strong feelings of worry or concern about what is happening or could happen ▪ If he ever gets control of the country, *Lord help us*! ▪ *Heaven help you* [=you will be in trouble] when he finds out you dented the car.

help off/on [*phrasal verb*] ***help (someone) off/on with (something)*** **:** to do something that makes it easier for (someone) to put on or take off (clothing, shoes, etc.) ▪ Let me *help* you *off with* your boots. ▪ He *helped* her *on with* her coat.

help out [*phrasal verb*] ***help out*** *or* ***help (someone) out*** *or* ***help out (someone)*** **:** to do something so another person's job or task is easier ▪ I can't do this myself. Won't someone please *help* me *out*? ▪ I sometimes *help out* in the kitchen. ▪ He *helped out* with the bills whenever he could. [=he helped pay the bills whenever he could]

so help me (God) — used to stress that a statement is serious and truthful ▪ I'm going on a diet and, *so help me*, this time I'll stick to it!

[2]help *noun, pl* **help**
1 [*noncount*] **a :** activities or efforts that make it easier to do a job, deal with a problem, etc. ▪ He thanked us for our

help. ▪ I could use some *help* with the dishes. ▪ We could hear shouts for *help* coming from the house. ▪ a ***help menu/screen*** [=a part of a computer program that gives instructions and information about how to use the program] **b** : something (such as money or advice) that is given to someone who needs it ▪ I couldn't have bought this house without financial *help*. [=without money given to me by someone else] ▪ She is very unhappy and needs some serious/professional *help*. [=she should see a counselor or psychologist to help her with her problems]

2 [*singular*] : someone or something that makes it easier to do a job, deal with a problem, etc. ▪ She has always been a real *help* (to me) in times of trouble. ▪ He's been more of a hindrance than a *help*.

3 [*noncount*] **a** : the fact of being useful to someone ▪ You've been (of) no *help* at all to me. [=you haven't helped me at all] **b** : the state of being helped ▪ Is there any *help* for us? [=is there anything that can be done to help us?] ▪ The situation is ***beyond help*** [=nothing can be done to improve the situation] ▪ (*Brit*) There was ***no help for it*** but to tell her parents. [=there was no way to avoid telling her parents]

4 [*plural*] : servants or paid workers ▪ We need to hire additional *help*. ▪ The *help* have already left for the day. ▪ It's hard to find good *help*. ▪ (*US*) I looked through the ***help wanted*** ads. [=the part of the newspaper in which jobs are advertised]

help desk *noun, pl* ~ **desks** [*count*] : a group of people who provide help and information usually for electronic or computer problems — usually singular ▪ Call the *help desk* if you have trouble with the software.

help•er /ˈhɛlpɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : someone who helps another person with a job or task ▪ The carpenter measured the wall while one of his *helpers* brought in the tools.

help•ful /ˈhɛlpfəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : making it easier to do a job, deal with a problem, etc. : giving help ▪ A *helpful* neighbor shoveled our walkway. ▪ She offered us *helpful* [=*useful*] suggestions. ▪ a *helpful* hint

2 : willing to help other people ▪ a kind and *helpful* person

come in helpful see *come in* at ¹COME

– **help•ful•ly** *adv* ▪ He *helpfully* offered to carry the groceries for me. – **help•ful•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ I appreciate your *helpfulness*.

help•ing /ˈhɛlpɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-ings** [*count*] : an amount of food that is put on a plate at one time : a portion of food : SERVING ▪ He had two *helpings* of carrots. ▪ Can I give you a second *helping*? — sometimes used figuratively ▪ He needed a generous *helping* of self-confidence to ask for a raise.

helping hand *noun, pl* ~ **hands** [*count*] : help or assistance ▪ I'm always willing to lend/give a *helping hand*. [=I am always willing to help]

helping verb *noun, pl* ~ **verbs** [*count*] *grammar* : AUXILIARY VERB

help•less /ˈhɛlpləs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : not protected : not able to defend yourself ▪ a *helpless* little baby ▪ The civilians were *helpless* against their attackers.

2 : unable to do something to make a situation, task, etc., better or easier ▪ Firefighters were *helpless* against the blaze. ▪ I feel *helpless*. Isn't there anything I can do?

3 a : not able to be controlled ▪ *helpless* laughter/rage **b** : not able to control something (such as laughter or anger) ▪ The crowd was ***helpless with*** laughter. ▪ He was *helpless with* rage.

– **help•less•ly** *adv* ▪ We stood by *helplessly* while the fire destroyed the house. ▪ They were laughing *helplessly*. – **help•less•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ feelings of *helplessness* and despair

help•line /ˈhɛlpˌlaɪn/ *noun, pl* **-lines** [*count*] : a telephone service that offers help or information ▪ Call our toll-free *helpline* for more information.

help•mate /ˈhɛlpˌmeɪt/ *noun, pl* **-mates** [*count*] *old-fashioned + literary* : a person who is a companion and helper; *especially* : WIFE

help•meet /ˈhɛlpˌmi:t/ *noun, pl* **-meets** [*count*] *old-fashioned + literary* : HELPMATE

¹hel•ter–skel•ter /ˌhɛltɚˈskɛltɚ/ *adv*

1 : in a confused and careless way ▪ The children raced *helter-skelter* through the house.

2 : in no particular order ▪ magazines stacked *helter-skelter* on her desk

– **helter–skelter** *adj* ▪ a *helter-skelter* rush through the train station

²helter–skelter *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*] *Brit* : a slide that twists around a tower at an amusement park

¹hem /ˈhɛm/ *noun, pl* **hems** [*count*] : the edge of a piece of cloth that is folded back and sewn down ▪ shorten the *hem* of the dress/skirt/trousers — see color picture on page C12

²hem *verb* **hems**; **hemmed**; **hem•ming** [+ *obj*] : to sew down a folded edge of cloth on (something) : to give (something) a hem ▪ *hem* the dress/skirt/trousers ▪ The curtains need to be *hemmed*.

hem in [*phrasal verb*] ***hem (someone or something) in*** *or* ***hem in (someone or something)*** : to surround (someone or something) very closely or in a way that makes movement or escape difficult — usually used as *(be) hemmed in* ▪ The town *is hemmed in* by mountains on all sides. ▪ He *was hemmed in* by reporters as he tried to leave the courthouse. — often used figuratively ▪ He felt *hemmed in* by the school's rules. [=he felt that the rules prevented him from acting freely]

– compare ³HEM

³hem *verb* **hems**; **hemmed**; **hemming**

hem and haw *chiefly US, informal* **1** : to stop often and change what you are saying during speech because you are not sure of what to say or are trying to avoid saying something ▪ The question surprised her and she *hemmed and hawed* a bit before answering. **2** : to take a long time before you make a decision about what to do ▪ The city council *hemmed and hawed* for a year before deciding to build the new school.

– compare ²HEM

he–man /ˈhi:ˌmæn/ *noun, pl* **-men** /-ˌmɛn/ [*count*] *informal* : a man who is very strong and masculine ▪ He plays another *he-man* in his latest action movie.

hemi•sphere /ˈhɛməˌsfiɚ/ *noun, pl* **-spheres** [*count*]

1 : a half of the Earth ▪ the ***Northern/Southern Hemisphere*** [=the half of the Earth that is north/south of the equator] ▪ the ***Eastern Hemisphere*** [=the half of the Earth that is east of the Atlantic Ocean and that includes Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australia] ▪ the ***Western Hemisphere*** [=the half of the Earth that is west of the Atlantic Ocean and that includes North and South America]

2 : half of a sphere : half of a round object

3 *technical* : either of the two halves of the brain ▪ a tumor in the right/left ***cerebral hemisphere***

– **hemi•spher•ic** /ˌhɛməˈsfirɪk/ *or* **hemi•spher•i•cal** /ˌhɛməˈsferɪkəl/ *adj, technical* ▪ a *hemispherical* structure

hem•line /ˈhɛmˌlaɪn/ *noun, pl* **-lines** [*count*] : the bottom edge of a dress, skirt, or coat ▪ The *hemline* falls just above the knee. ▪ I shortened/raised the *hemline* on the dress.

hem•lock /ˈhɛmˌlɑ:k/ *noun, pl* **-locks**

1 [*count, noncount*] : an evergreen tree with soft wood

2 [*noncount*] **a** : a type of poisonous plant that has small white flowers **b** : a deadly drug or drink made from this plant ▪ Socrates died after drinking *hemlock*.

he•mo•glo•bin (*US*) *or Brit* **hae•mo•glo•bin** /ˈhi:məˌgloʊbən/ *noun* [*noncount*] *technical* : the part of blood that contains iron, carries oxygen through the body, and gives blood its red color

he•mo•phil•ia (*US*) *or Brit* **hae•mo•phil•ia** /ˌhi:məˈfɪlijə/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : a serious disease that causes a person who has been cut or injured to keep bleeding for a very long time

he•mo•phil•i•ac (*US*) *or Brit* **hae•mo•phil•i•ac** /ˌhi:məˈfɪliˌæk/ *noun, pl* **-acs** [*count*] : a person who has hemophilia

¹hem•or•rhage (*US*) *or Brit* **haem•or•rhage** /ˈhɛmərɪʤ/ *noun, pl* **-rhag•es** *medical* : a condition in which a person bleeds too much and cannot stop the flow of blood [*count*] The patient suffered a cerebral *hemorrhage*. [*noncount*] There is a possibility of *hemorrhage* with the procedure. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ The company has suffered a financial *hemorrhage*. [=the company has lost large amounts of money]

– **hem•or•rhag•ic** (*US*) *or Brit* **haem•or•rhag•ic** /ˌhɛməˈræʤɪk/ *adj, medical* ▪ a *hemorrhagic* fever [=a fever that causes hemorrhaging]

²hemorrhage (*US*) *or Brit* **haemorrhage** *verb* **-rhages**; **-rhaged**; **-rhag•ing**

1 [*no obj*] *medical* : to bleed in a very fast and uncontrolled way ▪ The patient began to *hemorrhage* after the surgery.

2 [+ *obj*] : to lose (people, money, etc.) in a very fast and uncontrolled way ▪ The company is *hemorrhaging* money. [=the company is losing very large amounts of money]

– **hemorrhaging** (*US*) *or Brit* **haem•or•rhag•ing** *noun*

[*noncount*] ▪ The patient has internal *hemorrhaging*.

hem•or•rhoid (*US*) *or Brit* **haem•or•rhoid** /'hɛmˌrɔɪd/ *noun, pl* **-rhoids** [*count*] : a swollen and painful area located at or near the anus — usually plural ▪ a patient who suffers from *hemorrhoids*

hemp /'hɛmp/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a plant that is used to make thick ropes and some drugs (such as hashish and marijuana)

hen /'hɛn/ *noun, pl* **hens** [*count*]
1 : an adult female chicken — compare ROOSTER
2 : a female bird of any kind

hence /'hɛns/ *adv, formal*
1 : for this reason ▪ He was a newcomer and *hence* [=*consequently, therefore*] had no close friends here. ▪ He knew he could not win the election—*hence* his decision to withdraw. ▪ The company lost a great deal of money. *Hence*, the CEO was asked to resign.
2 : later than the present time ▪ a week *hence* [=a week from now] ▪ What will life be like a century *hence*?

hence•forth /'hɛnsˌfoəθ/ *adv, formal* : from this time forward : starting now ▪ *Henceforth*, supervisors will report directly to the manager. ▪ She announced that *henceforth* she would be running the company.

hence•for•ward /hɛns'foəwəd/ *adv, formal* : HENCEFORTH

hench•man /'hɛntʃmən/ *noun, pl* **-men** /-mən/ [*count*] *disapproving* : a trusted follower or supporter who performs unpleasant, wrong, or illegal tasks for a powerful person (such as a politician or criminal) ▪ a gangster surrounded by his *henchmen*

hen•house /'hɛnˌhaʊs/ *noun, pl* **-hous•es** [*count*] : a covered shelter for chickens or other birds

hen•na /'hɛnə/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a reddish-brown dye used especially for coloring hair or skin

hen party *noun, pl* ~ **-ties** [*count*] *Brit, informal* : a party for women only; *especially* : a party for a woman who is about to be married — called also *hen night*

hen•pecked /'hɛnˌpɛkt/ *adj, informal* — used to describe a man who is constantly controlled and criticized by his wife ▪ a *henpecked* husband

hep /'hɛp/ *adj* **hep•per**; **hep•pest** [*also more* ~; *most* ~] *US slang, old-fashioned* : having or showing knowledge about the newest things in music, fashion, etc. : HIP ▪ a *hep* cafe ▪ She's *hep*. ✧ *Hep* is often associated with people who played and listened to jazz music in the mid-20th century.

hep•a•ti•tis /ˌhɛpə'taɪtəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : a serious disease of the liver that causes fever and makes your skin and eyes yellow

hep•cat /'hɛpˌkæt/ *noun, pl* **-cats** [*count*] *US slang, old-fashioned* : a person who knows about the newest things in music, fashion, etc. : a hip person ▪ a cool *hepcat* ✧ *Hepcat* often refers to someone who played or listened to jazz music in the mid-20th century.

hep•ta•gon /'hɛptəˌgɑːn/ *noun, pl* **-gons** [*count*] *mathematics* : a flat shape that has seven sides and seven angles
– **hep•tag•o•nal** /hɛp'tægənəl/ *adj* ▪ a *heptagonal* shape/room

hep•tath•lon /hɛp'tæθlən/ *noun, pl* **-lons** [*count*] : an athletic contest for women that consists of seven running, jumping, and throwing events ▪ She won a gold medal in the *heptathlon*.

[1]her /'hə, ə/ *adj, always used before a noun, possessive form of* SHE : relating to or belonging to a certain woman, girl, or female animal ▪ She bought *her* own house. ▪ *Her* parents will visit soon. ▪ What is *her* name? : made or done by a certain woman, girl, or female animal ▪ I would like to read some of *her* essays. ▪ She was jailed for *her* crime. ▪ It's *her* turn to play. — sometimes used figuratively to refer to something thought of as female (such as a ship, car, machine, or country) ▪ The ship is in port to have *her* hull repaired. ▪ the United States and *her* allies — see also HERS

[2]her *pronoun, objective form of* SHE — used to refer to a certain woman, girl, or female animal as the object of a verb or a preposition ▪ Tell *her* I said hello. ▪ Did you invite *her*? ▪ I gave the book to *her*. ▪ a gift for *her* ▪ The dress fits her sister as well as *her*.

[1]her•ald /'herəld/ *verb* **-alds**; **-ald•ed**; **-ald•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to be a sign of (something that is beginning to happen or will happen soon) ▪ Rain *heralds* the arrival of spring. ▪ The technology *heralded* a new age of space exploration.
2 : to greet (someone or something) with enthusiasm — usually used as *(be) heralded* ▪ This achievement will *be heralded* all over the world. ▪ She is *being heralded* as the year's best new author. ✧ Someone or something that is ***much-heralded*** receives a large amount of praise or admiration. ▪ a *much-heralded* film

[2]herald *noun, pl* **-alds** [*count*] *formal*
1 : a sign that something will happen ▪ The early flowers are *heralds* of spring.
2 : an official messenger in the past ▪ Mercury was the *herald* of the Roman gods.

her•ald•ry /'herəldri/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : the activity of creating or studying coats of arms and of tracing and recording family histories
– **he•ral•dic** /hɛ'rældɪk/ *adj* ▪ crosses and other *heraldic* devices

herb /'əb, *Brit* 'hə:b/ *noun, pl* **herbs** [*count*] : a plant or a part of a plant that is used as medicine or to give flavor to food ▪ a dish seasoned with chopped fresh *herbs* ▪ rosemary, sage, and other *herbs* — see color picture on page C6

her•ba•ceous /hə'beɪʃəs/ *adj*
1 : relating to herbs ▪ *herbaceous* flavors/aromas
2 : relating to a type of plant that has a soft stem ▪ *herbaceous* plants/perennials ▪ a ***herbaceous border*** [=a garden of flowering plants that die in the autumn and grow again in the spring]

herb•al /'əbəl, *Brit* 'hə:bəl/ *adj, always used before a noun* : made of or relating to herbs ▪ *herbal* tea/supplements ▪ a doctor who practices ***herbal medicine*** [=the use of herbs to treat illness]

herb•al•ist /'əbəlɪst, *Brit* 'hə:bəlɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] : a person who grows, sells, or uses herbs to treat illness

herb doctor *noun, pl* ~ **-tors** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a person who uses herbs to treat illness

her•bi•cide /'həbəˌsaɪd/ *noun, pl* **-cides** [*count, noncount*] : a chemical used to destroy plants or stop plant growth

her•bi•vore /'həbəˌvoə/ *noun, pl* **-vores** [*count*] : an animal that only eats plants
– **her•biv•o•rous** /ˌhə'bɪvərəs/ *adj* ▪ *herbivorous* animals

her•cu•le•an *or* **Her•cu•le•an** /ˌhəkjə'liːjən/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : very large, difficult, powerful, etc. ▪ a *herculean* task/effort ▪ *Herculean* strength ▪ They took on the *herculean* job of restoring the house after the fire. ▪ a problem of *herculean* proportions

[1]herd /'həd/ *noun, pl* **herds**
1 [*count*] : a group of animals that live or are kept together ▪ *herds* of cattle/horses/elephants ▪ The *herd* grazed peacefully in the pasture.
2 a [*count*] : a large group of people ▪ A *herd* of shoppers waited anxiously for the store to open. **b** ***the herd*** : common people : people as a group ▪ *the* common *herd* ▪ He always sticks with *the herd*. [=he always does what other people do; he does not think for himself] ▪ I refuse to ***follow the herd***. [=do what other people do]
ride herd on see [1]RIDE

[2]herd *verb* **herds**; **herd•ed**; **herd•ing**
1 [+ *obj*] : to gather and move (a group of animals) ▪ *herd* cattle ▪ The horses were *herded* into the corral.
2 a [+ *obj*] : to move (people) in a group ▪ We left the hotel and were *herded* onto a bus. ▪ They *herded* the students into the auditorium. **b** [*no obj*] : to form a group or move as a group ▪ The commuters *herded* onto the train.
– **herd•er** /'hədə/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

herds•man /'hədzmən/ *noun, pl* **-men** /-mən/ [*count*] : a person (especially a man) who watches over a herd of cows, sheep, etc.

[1]here /'hiə/ *adv*
1 a : in this place : at this location ▪ I like it *here*. ▪ I'm *here* to help you. ▪ Turn *here*. ▪ Hello—is anyone *here*? ▪ I'm sure I left my glasses (right) *here*. ▪ They have lived *here* for 30 years. ▪ Please sign *here*. [=at the place indicated by the speaker] ▪ At last we're *here*! = *Here* we are at last! [=we have finally arrived] ▪ "Hey, where are you?" "I'm ***over/out/down/up/in here***." ▪ I'm planning to be ***back here*** by 6:00. — used in speech when something is found ▪ Have you seen my glasses? Oh, *here* they are. ▪ Ah, *here*'s the book I've been looking for. **b** : to or into this place ▪ Come *here*. ▪ I've come *here* to help you. ▪ Bring the book *here*. ▪ He rode his bicycle *here* this morning. ▪ When will you get *here*? ▪ *Here* comes the bus. [=the bus is coming right now]
2 a : at this point in a process, activity, story, etc. ▪ *Here* the author introduces a new character. ▪ The speaker paused *here* for a moment. ▪ *Here* the film changes from black-and-white to color. **b** : in the matter that is being considered

: in this case ▪ *Here* we agree. ▪ The essential conflict *here* is their different ways of cutting costs. **c** : appearing or happening now ▪ *Here*'s your chance for a new career. ▪ Winter is *here* at last.

3 a *informal* — used to make a statement about the present situation or subject more forceful ▪ Hey, I'm trying to work *here*! ▪ We're talking about a lot of money *here*! ▪ Let's get serious *here*! **b** *informal* — used after a noun to emphasize which person, thing, etc. you are referring to ▪ This book *here* is the one I was talking about. ▪ My brother *here* just bought a new car. **c** — used when you are giving something to someone ▪ *Here*'s my phone number. ▪ "Could you pass the salt?" "Sure, ***here you are***." = "Sure, ***here it is***." = "Sure, ***here you go***."

from here on (out) *US, informal* : from this time forward ▪ *From here on out*, I'm making all the decisions.

here and now : at the present time ▪ Instead of dwelling on the past, we need to deal with the problems that exist *here and now*. — often used in the phrase ***the here and now*** ▪ We need to deal with the problems that exist in *the here and now*. [=the problems that exist in the present]

here and there : in different places ▪ Books and papers were strewn *here and there*. ▪ He's traveled *here and there*.

here goes *or chiefly US* ***here goes nothing*** *informal* — used when you are about to try doing something new, difficult, or unpleasant ▪ It's hard to explain, but *here goes*. [=I will try to explain] ▪ I've never skied before, so *here goes nothing*.

here is — used in speech and informal writing to introduce a person, subject, or action ▪ *Here is* what I think we should do. ▪ *Here's* the thing/problem—I already told her I would go. ▪ *Here is* the latest election news. ▪ *Here's* how you should hold the golf club.

here's to — used to express good wishes for someone, to say you are pleased about something, etc., before you drink something; used for making a toast to someone or something ▪ *Here's to* the new couple. May they find great happiness together. ▪ Thank you all for your hard work. And now, *here's to* another successful year!

here, there, and everywhere *informal* : in many different places : all over ▪ I've been looking for you *here, there, and everywhere*.

here to stay : likely to last or be present for a long time ▪ She's convinced that her bad luck is *here to stay*.

here we go *informal* — used when something is just beginning to happen or move ▪ "*Here we go*," I said as the roller coaster began to climb the first hill.

here you go (again) see ¹GO

neither here nor there : not important or interesting ▪ What I think is really *neither here nor there*. You have to make up your own mind.

out of here *or* ***outta here*** *informal* — used to say that you are leaving ▪ It's five o'clock, so I am ***out of here***. [=I am leaving this place]

up to here see ²UP

²here *interj*

1 — used to say that you are present ▪ When he calls your name, say "*here*." ▪ "John Smith?" "*Here*!"

2 — used for emphasis or to attract someone's attention ▪ *Here*, let me help you with that. ▪ (*chiefly Brit*) *Here*, what are you doing with my bike?

3 — used in calling a pet to you ▪ *Here*, boy! Good dog!

³here *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : this place ▪ get away ***from here***

2 : this point ▪ I've done my part. ***You take it from here***. [=you are responsible from now on]

here•abouts /ˈhirəˌbaʊts/ *also US* **here•about** /ˈhirəˌbaʊt/ *adv, informal* : near or around this place : in this area ▪ We don't see a lot of snow *hereabouts*. — compare THEREABOUTS

¹here•af•ter /hiəˈæftɚ, *Brit* hɪərˈɑːftə/ *adv, formal*

1 : after this : from now on ▪ *Hereafter* the two companies will operate in full partnership. — often used in legal documents ▪ my client, *hereafter* the plaintiff [=my client, who will be called "the plaintiff" from this point onward]

2 : in a future time or state ▪ We don't know what will happen *hereafter*.

²hereafter *noun*

the hereafter : an existence that comes after life ends : life after death ▪ belief in *the hereafter*

here•by /hiəˈbaɪ/ *adv, formal* : by means of this act, these words, this document, etc. ▪ I *hereby* declare the Olympic Games officially open. ▪ The sum will *hereby* be charged to your account. ▪ The parties to the lawsuit *hereby* agree to settle the matter out of court.

he•red•i•tary /həˈrɛdəˌteri, *Brit* həˈrɛdətri/ *adj*

1 : passed or able to be passed from parent to child before birth ▪ *hereditary* traits/diseases ▪ He suffers from a rare *hereditary* condition.

2 *formal* **a** : passing from a person who has died to that person's child or younger relative ▪ The position is *hereditary*. [=*inherited*] ▪ a *hereditary* monarchy **b** : holding a position or title that was passed on from your parent or an older relative ▪ a *hereditary* ruler/monarch

he•red•i•ty /həˈrɛdəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : the natural process by which physical and mental qualities are passed from a parent to a child ▪ *Heredity* plays no part in the disease.

here•in /hiəˈɪn/ *adv, formal*

1 : in this book, document, etc. ▪ For an explanation of the abbreviations used *herein*, see the section entitled "Abbreviations in this Work."

2 : in this statement, fact, or detail — used to introduce something that is related to the main subject and that is usually followed by an explanation ▪ The company faces more competition every year. *Herein* lies the challenge. In order to maintain our current standing, we have to increase sales.

here•in•af•ter /ˌhirəˈnæftɚ, *Brit* ˌhɪərəˈnɑːftə/ *adv, formal* : ¹HEREAFTER 1

her•e•sy /ˈherəsi/ *noun, pl* **-sies** : a belief or opinion that does not agree with the official belief or opinion of a particular religion [*noncount*] They were accused of *heresy*. [*count*] He was preaching dangerous *heresies*. — often used figuratively ▪ To disagree with the party leadership was *heresy*.

her•e•tic /ˈherəˌtɪk/ *noun, pl* **-tics** [*count*] : someone who believes or teaches something that goes against accepted or official beliefs ▪ The church regards them as *heretics*.

– **he•ret•i•cal** /həˈrɛtɪkəl/ *adj* ▪ *heretical* ideas/writings ▪ It would be *heretical* to suggest changing company policy.

here•to /hiəˈtuː/ *adv, formal* : to this document ▪ I attach *hereto* my revisions.

here•to•fore /ˈhiɚtəˌfoɚ/ *adv, formal* : until this time : before now ▪ *Heretofore* her writing has never displayed such depth of feeling. ▪ This technology has created *heretofore* unimaginable possibilities.

here•with /hiəˈwɪθ, hiəˈwɪð/ *adv, formal* : with this : included with this note, letter, document, etc. ▪ You will find my check *herewith*. ▪ *Herewith* are your instructions. ▪ I enclose *herewith* my revisions.

her•i•ta•ble /ˈhɛrətəbəl/ *adj, formal*

1 : able to be passed from parent to child before birth ▪ a *heritable* disease

2 *law* : able to be passed from a parent or older relative to a child ▪ a *heritable* title

her•i•tage /ˈherətɪʤ/ *noun, pl* **-tag•es** [*count*] : the traditions, achievements, beliefs, etc., that are part of the history of a group or nation — usually singular ▪ a nation with a rich *heritage* of folklore ▪ His Polish *heritage* was very important to him. ▪ These battlefields are an important part of our *heritage* and should be preserved.

herky–jerky /ˈhɚkiˈʤɚki/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *US, informal* : not smooth or graceful : marked by sudden movements or changes ▪ a *herky-jerky* dance ▪ a film criticized for its *herky-jerky* editing

her•maph•ro•dite /hɚˈmæfrəˌdaɪt/ *noun, pl* **-dites** [*count*] : a person, plant, or animal that has both male and female parts

– **hermaphrodite** *adj* ▪ *hermaphrodite* populations – **her•maph•ro•dit•ic** /hɚˌmæfrəˈdɪtɪk/ *adj* ▪ *hermaphroditic* species

her•met•ic /hɚˈmɛtɪk/ *adj, formal* : closed tightly so that no air can go in or out ▪ *hermetic* [=(more commonly) *airtight*] seals

– **her•met•i•cal•ly** /hɚˈmɛtɪkli/ *adv* ▪ *hermetically* sealed containers

her•mit /ˈhɚmət/ *noun, pl* **-mits** [*count*] : a person who lives in a simple way apart from others especially for religious reasons

her•mit•age /ˈhɚmətɪʤ/ *noun, pl* **-ag•es** [*count*]

1 : a place where a hermit lives

2 : a house or building that is far away from other houses, buildings, or people ▪ On weekends he escapes to his *hermitage* in the mountains.

H

hermit crab *noun, pl* ~ **crabs** [*count*] : a type of crab that lives in the empty shell of another animal (such as a snail)

her•nia /'hɚnijə/ *noun, pl* **-ni•as** *medical* : a painful condition in which an organ (such as the intestine) pushes through the muscles that are around it [*count*] He has a *hernia*. [*noncount*] He was treated for *hernia*. — called also *rupture*

he•ro /'hirou/ *noun, pl* **heroes** *or in sense 3* **heros** [*count*]
1 a : a person who is admired for great or brave acts or fine qualities ▪ He returned from the war a national *hero*. ▪ the *hero* of a rescue ▪ She was a *hero* for standing up to the government. **b** : a person who is greatly admired ▪ a football *hero* ▪ His father has always been his *hero*. ▪ He has always been a *hero* to his son. ✧ *Hero* can refer to either a man or a woman, but it is often used to refer specifically to a man. The specific word for a woman who is brave and admired is *heroine*. — see also FOLK HERO
2 : the chief male character in a story, play, movie, etc. ▪ The *hero* [=*protagonist*] of the film is a fisherman.
3 *pl usually* **heros** *US* : SUBMARINE SANDWICH

he•ro•ic /hɪ'rowɪk/ *adj*
1 : of or relating to heroes ▪ the *heroic* age ▪ *heroic* legends
2 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having or showing great courage ▪ It was *heroic* of those women to fight for the right to vote. ▪ The soldiers received medals for their *heroic* actions.
3 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : very large or great in size, amount, etc. ▪ Despite *heroic* efforts to save the business, it ultimately went bankrupt. ▪ a political battle of *heroic* proportions ▪ *Heroic* [=*drastic*] measures may be required to save the patient.
– **he•ro•i•cal•ly** /hɪ'rowɪkli/ *adv* ▪ women who fought *heroically* for the right to vote

he•ro•ics /hɪ'rowɪks/ *noun* [*plural*] : actions that show courage : heroic acts or behavior ▪ Despite his *heroics* on the football field, he has had a troubled life. — often used to describe heroic actions that are regarded as foolish ▪ We need to be cautious now. This is no time for *heroics*.

her•o•in /'herəwən/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a powerful illegal drug that is made from morphine

her•o•ine /'herəwən/ *noun, pl* **-ines** [*count*]
1 : a woman who is admired for great or brave acts or fine qualities ▪ The town remembered her as the *heroine* of the flood and erected a statue in her honor.
2 : the chief female character in a story, play, movie, etc. ▪ a tragic *heroine*

her•o•ism /'herə,wɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : great courage ▪ acts/feats of *heroism* ▪ women who showed *heroism* by fighting for their right to vote

her•on /'herən/ *noun, pl* **-ons** [*count*] : a large bird that has long legs and a long neck and bill — see color picture on page C9

hero sandwich *noun, pl* ~ **-wiches** [*count*] *US* : SUBMARINE SANDWICH

hero worship *noun* [*noncount*] : foolish or excessive admiration of someone ▪ He objects to the unthinking *hero worship* of great athletes by their fans.
– **hero–worship** *verb* **-ships**; **-shipped** *also US* **-shiped**; **-ship•ping** *also US* **-ship•ing** [+ *obj*] ▪ As a child he *hero-worshipped* his older brother.

her•pes /'hɚ,pi:z/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a disease that causes painful spots on the skin

her•ring /'herɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **herring** *or* **herrings** [*count, noncount*] : a fish that lives in the northern Atlantic Ocean and is often eaten as food — see also RED HERRING

her•ring•bone /'herɪŋ,boun/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a pattern used on cloth that consists of rows of parallel lines that slant in opposite directions to form V shapes — usually used before another noun ▪ a *herringbone* pattern/design ▪ a *herringbone* jacket

hers /'hɚz/ *pronoun*
1 : that which belongs to or is connected with her : her one : her ones ▪ The book is *hers*. [=the book belongs to her; it is her book] ▪ *Hers* is the book on the left. [=her book is the one on the left] ▪ a former professor ***of hers*** [=one of her former professors] ▪ That face *of hers* [=her face] is hard to forget.
2 *Brit, informal* : her home ▪ Let's go back to *hers* for a drink.

her•self /hɚ'sɛlf/ *pronoun*
1 : that same woman, girl, or female animal: **a** — used as the object of a verb or preposition to refer to a woman, girl, or female animal that has already been mentioned ▪ She considers *herself* lucky. ▪ She accepted the award for her coworkers and *herself*. ▪ She is proud of *herself* for finishing college. ▪ She wrapped the blanket around *herself*. ▪ "I wonder what he meant?" she said/thought to *herself*. ▪ She had the house (all) to *herself*. [=she was alone in the house] ▪ She wanted to see it ***for herself*** [=she wanted to see it rather than have someone tell her about it, describe it to her, etc.] **b** — used for emphasis to refer again to a woman, girl, or female animal that has already been mentioned ▪ She told me *herself* that she would be here. ▪ It's hard to believe that she was young once *herself*. ▪ My father wanted my mother to see a doctor, but she *herself* didn't think it was necessary. ▪ We were welcomed by the company president *herself*. ▪ She was nervous about meeting them, but I told him to just ***be herself*** [=to behave like she normally does]
2 : her normal or healthy self ▪ She was *herself* again after a good night's sleep. ▪ She's not *herself* today; something's bothering her.

by herself **1** : without any help from other people ▪ She shoveled the driveway *by herself*. ▪ She did her homework (all) *by herself*. **2** : with nobody else : ALONE ▪ The grandmother still lives in the house *by herself*. ▪ She went to the store *by herself*.

hertz /'hɚts/ *noun, pl* **hertz** [*count*] *technical* : a unit used for measuring the frequency of sound waves — abbr. *Hz*

he's /'hi:z, iz/ — used as a contraction of *he is* or *he has* ▪ *He's* [=*he is*] tall. ▪ *He's* [=*he has*] told me that before.

hes•i•tant /'hɛzətənt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : slow to act or speak especially because you are nervous or unsure about what to do : feeling or showing hesitation ▪ She took a *hesitant* step back from the door. ▪ He seems *hesitant* about accepting the job. — sometimes followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ He seems *hesitant to accept* the job.
– **hes•i•tan•cy** /'hɛzəntənsi/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ We were surprised by his *hesitancy* about accepting the job. – **hes•i•tant•ly** *adv* ▪ She *hesitantly* stepped back from the door. ▪ He *hesitantly* asked a stranger for directions.

hes•i•tate /'hɛzə,teɪt/ *verb* **-tates**; **-tat•ed**; **-tat•ing**
1 [*no obj*] : to stop briefly before you do something especially because you are nervous or unsure about what to do ▪ She *hesitated* and waited for her friend to say something. ▪ He *hesitated* about/over accepting the job.
2 [+ *obj*] : to be unwilling *to do* something because of doubt or uncertainty ▪ I sometimes *hesitate to say* what I am really thinking. ▪ I *hesitated to come* without being asked. ▪ I wouldn't *hesitate to ask* for your help if I felt I needed it. ▪ Don't *hesitate to call* if there is a problem.
he who hesitates is lost — used to say that it is important to make decisions and do things in a quick and definite way
– **hes•i•ta•tion** /,hɛzə'teɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] A moment's *hesitation* could have cost him his life. ▪ He showed no *hesitation* about/over accepting the job. ▪ I would do it again ***without hesitation*** [=with no delay or doubts] [*count*] After several brief *hesitations* he proceeded.

hes•sian /'hɛʃən, *Brit* 'hɛsiən/ *noun* [*noncount*] *Brit* : BURLAP

het•ero•dox /'hɛtərə,dɑ:ks/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : not agreeing with established beliefs or standards : UNORTHODOX ▪ a *heterodox* religious thinker ▪ *heterodox* ideas
– **het•ero•doxy** /'hɛtərə,dɑ:ksi/ *noun, pl* **-dox•ies** [*count, noncount*]

het•er•o•ge•neous /,hɛtərə'ʤi:nijəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : made up of parts that are different ▪ an ethnically *heterogeneous* population — opposite HOMOGENEOUS
– **het•ero•ge•ne•ity** /,hɛtəroʊʤə'ni:jəti/ *noun* [*noncount*]

het•ero•sex•u•al /,hɛtəroʊ'sɛkʃəwəl/ *adj*
1 : sexually attracted to people of the opposite sex ▪ a *heterosexual* male
2 : based on sexual attraction to people of the opposite sex ▪ *heterosexual* behavior — compare BISEXUAL, HOMOSEXUAL
– **heterosexual** *noun, pl* **-als** [*count*] ▪ male *heterosexuals*
– **het•ero•sex•u•al•i•ty** /,hɛtəroʊ,sɛkʃə'wæləti/ *noun* [*noncount*]

het up /'hɛt'ʌp/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *informal + somewhat old-fashioned* : very excited or upset ▪ John can get all/very *het up* about/over politics. ▪ What are you so *het up* about?

heu•ris•tic /hjʊ'rɪstɪk/ *adj, formal* : using experience to learn and improve ▪ *heuristic* writing techniques ▪ *heuristic* methods ▪ *heuristic* computer programs
– **heuristic** *noun, pl* **-tics** [*count*] ▪ The program uses *heuristics* [=heuristic methods] to continually improve its performance.

hew /'hju:/ *verb* **hews**; **hewed**; **hewed** *or* **hewn** /'hju:n/; **hew•ing** [+ *obj*] : to shape (something) by cutting with a

sharp tool (such as an ax) ▪ They *hewed* logs to build a cabin. ▪ The walls are built of stones *hewn* by skilled craftsmen. ▪ roughly *hewn* logs — sometimes used figuratively ▪ Settlers *hewed* a town from the wilderness. ▪ His father *hewed* a fortune from the railroads. — see also ROUGH-HEWN

hew to [*phrasal verb*] ***hew to (something)*** *US* : to follow or obey (something) ▪ Everyone must *hew to* the rules/standards. ▪ He is a politician who has always *hewed* [=*adhered*] closely *to* the party line.

hex /ˈhɛks/ *noun, pl* **hex•es** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a magical spell that is meant to cause bad luck for someone ▪ He claimed that a witch had put a *hex* on him.
– **hex** /ˈhɛks/ *verb* **hexes**; **hexed**; **hex•ing** [+ *obj*] ▪ He claimed that someone had *hexed* him.

hexa•gon /ˈhɛksəˌgɑːn, *Brit* ˈhɛksəgən/ *noun, pl* **-gons** [*count*] *mathematics* : a flat shape that has six angles and six sides — see picture at GEOMETRY
– **hex•ag•o•nal** /hɛkˈsægənl̩/ *adj* ▪ a *hexagonal* room

hey /ˈheɪ/ *interj*
1 — used to attract someone's attention or to express surprise, joy, or anger ▪ *Hey* (there), it's good to see you! ▪ *Hey*, wait for me! ▪ *Hey*, what are you doing with my car! ▪ *Hey* you!—get away from there!
2 — used to indicate that something is not important, that you are not upset about something, etc. ▪ I thought she was my friend, but, *hey*, it's not the first time I've been wrong. ▪ "We lost." "*Hey*, you can't win them all." ▪ "I'm sorry to be so late." "*Hey*, don't worry about it."

hey•day /ˈheɪˌdeɪ/ *noun, pl* **-days** [*count*] : the time when someone or something is most successful, popular, etc. — usually singular ▪ In the *heyday* of big cars nobody cared how much gas cost. ▪ That's when he was in his *heyday*.

hey presto *interj, Brit* : PRESTO ▪ A wave of the hand and, *hey presto*, it's gone!

HGV /ˌeɪtʃˌʤiːˈviː/ *noun, pl* **HGVs** [*count*] *Brit* : a large truck
✧ *HGV* is an abbreviation of "heavy goods vehicle."

hi /ˈhaɪ/ *interj* — used as an informal way of saying "hello" ▪ *Hi*, how are you? ▪ Aren't you going to ***say hi to*** [=*greet*] him?

HI *abbr* Hawaii

hi•a•tus /haɪˈeɪtəs/ *noun, pl* **-tus•es** : a period of time when something (such as an activity or program) is stopped [*count*] The band is making an album again after a five-year *hiatus*. [*noncount*] (*US*) The television network put the show ***on hiatus*** [=it stopped broadcasting the show] for several months. = The show went *on hiatus* for several months.

hi•ba•chi /hɪˈbɑːʧi/ *noun, pl* **-chis** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a small grill (sense 1b) for cooking food over charcoal

hi•ber•nate /ˈhaɪbəˌneɪt/ *verb* **-nates**; **-nat•ed**; **-nat•ing** [*no obj*] *of an animal* : to spend the winter sleeping or resting ▪ bears *hibernating* in their dens
– **hi•ber•na•tion** /ˌhaɪbəˈneɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ bears in *hibernation*

hi•bis•cus /haɪˈbɪskəs/ *noun, pl* **hibiscus** *or* **hi•bis•cus•es** [*count, noncount*] : a type of shrub that has large colorful flowers

hic•cup *also* **hic•cough** /ˈhɪˌkʌp/ *noun, pl* **-cups** *also* **-coughs**
1 a [*count*] : a sound in your throat that is caused by a sudden, uncontrolled movement of muscles in your chest after you have eaten or drunk too much or too quickly **b *hiccups*** [*plural*] : a condition in which you make hiccups repeatedly ▪ The baby has (the) *hiccups*. ▪ I got the *hiccups*.
2 [*count*] *informal* : a small problem, change, or delay ▪ Our computer problems were caused by a *hiccup* in the power supply. ▪ The stock market has continued to rise, except for a slight *hiccup* earlier this month.
– **hiccup** *also* **hiccough** /ˈhɪˌkʌp/ *verb* **-cups** *also* **-coughs**; **-cuped** *also* **-cupped** *or* **-coughed**; **-cup•ing** *also* **-cup•ping** *or* **-cough•ing** [*no obj*] ▪ Someone in the audience started *hiccuping*.

hick /ˈhɪk/ *noun, pl* **hicks** [*count*] *US, informal + disapproving* : an uneducated person from a small town or the country ▪ We felt like a bunch of *hicks* when we went to the city for the first time. — often used before another noun ▪ a *hick* town [=a town where the people are hicks]

hick•o•ry /ˈhɪkəri/ *noun, pl* **-ries**
1 [*count*] : a type of tree that has very hard wood and that produces nuts which can be eaten — called also *hickory tree*
2 [*noncount*] : the wood of a hickory tree

[1]hidden *past participle of* [1]HIDE

[2]hidden *adj*
1 : not seen or known ▪ a *hidden* [=*concealed*] microphone/camera ▪ His suggestions have a *hidden* [=*secret*] purpose. ▪ *hidden* motives ▪ He's accused of having a ***hidden agenda*** [=a secret plan]
2 : not easily found or recognized ▪ There was a *hidden* flaw in the airplane's design. ▪ the *hidden* costs in buying a home ▪ searching for *hidden* meanings ▪ a *hidden* valley

[1]hide /ˈhaɪd/ *verb* **hides**; **hid** /ˈhɪd/; **hid•den** /ˈhɪdn̩/ *or* **hid**; **hid•ing** /ˈhaɪdɪŋ/
1 [+ *obj*] **a** : to put (something) in a place where it cannot be seen or found ▪ She *hid* the gifts under the bed. ▪ His records were *hidden* (away) in the back room. **b** : to prevent (something) from being seen ▪ Clouds *hid* the sun all day. ▪ She *hid* her face in her hands. [=she covered her face with her hands] ▪ They live in a house *hidden* among the trees. ▪ a house *hidden* (from view) by trees
2 a [*no obj*] : to go to or stay at a place where you cannot be seen or found ▪ She *hid* under the bed. ▪ The prisoners *hid* (out) down by the river after escaping. ▪ criminals *hiding* (out) from the police ▪ Photographers were *hiding* behind the fence. ▪ He has nowhere to *hide*. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ He tried to *hide* from his responsibilities. [=he tried to avoid his responsibilities] ▪ She has been accused of *hiding* behind her reputation [=using her reputation to protect herself] instead of answering the charges openly. **b** [+ *obj*] : to put (someone or yourself) in a place that cannot be seen or found ▪ She *hid* him/herself under the bed. ▪ She *hid* him from the police.
3 [+ *obj*] : to keep (something) from being known ▪ She tried to *hide* the fact that she was looking for another job. ▪ You shouldn't try to *hide* your feelings (from me). ▪ He made no attempt to *hide* his anger. ▪ You can ask me anything. I have nothing to *hide*.
hide your light under a bushel see BUSHEL

[2]hide *noun, pl* **hides** [*count*]
1 : the skin of a usually large animal ▪ cattle *hides*
2 *informal* — used to talk about protecting or saving yourself or someone else from harm ▪ He betrayed his friend to protect his own *hide*. [=to protect himself] ▪ Thanks for helping me out—you really ***saved my hide***! [=kept me from being harmed; saved me]
3 *chiefly Brit* : [3]BLIND 2
hide or hair *or* ***hide nor hair*** *informal* : any sign of a particular person or thing ▪ He hasn't seen *hide or hair* of his son [=hasn't seen his son at all] since he went off to college. ▪ We haven't seen *hide nor hair* of a gas station.
tan someone's hide *informal + old-fashioned* : to beat or whip (someone) very badly ▪ He threatened to *tan my hide* if I didn't do what he told me to do.

hide–and–go–seek *noun* [*noncount*] *US* : HIDE-AND-SEEK

hide–and–seek *noun* [*noncount*] : a children's game in which everyone hides from one player who tries to find them ▪ play *hide-and-seek*

hide•away /ˈhaɪdəˌweɪ/ *noun, pl* **-aways** [*count*] : a hidden place : a place where someone goes to be alone ▪ The resort is a perfect romantic *hideaway* for young couples.

hide•bound /ˈhaɪdˌbaʊnd/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *disapproving* : not willing to accept new or different ideas ▪ a *hidebound* conservative ▪ *hidebound* traditions [=old traditions that are out-of-date and should be changed]

hid•eous /ˈhɪdijəs/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : very ugly or disgusting ▪ The room was filled with *hideous* furniture. ▪ a *hideous* deformity/crime ▪ He let out a *hideous* [=*frightful*] laugh.
– **hid•eous•ly** *adv* ▪ Her face was *hideously* deformed by the fire. – **hid•eous•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

hide•out /ˈhaɪdˌaʊt/ *noun, pl* **-outs** [*count*] : a place where someone (such as a criminal) hides to avoid being found or captured ▪ a secret *hideout*

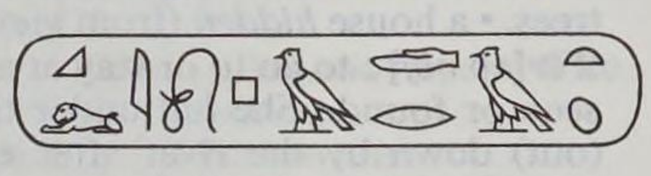
[1]hid•ing /ˈhaɪdɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the state of being hidden ▪ She ***went into hiding*** [=she went to a secret place where she would not be found by the people who were looking for her] to avoid reporters and television cameras. ▪ He has been ***in hiding*** for years. ▪ He ***came out of hiding*** to answer the rumors. — compare [2]HIDING

[2]hiding *noun, pl* **-ings** [*count*] *chiefly Brit, informal* : a severe beating — usually singular ▪ My father threatened to give me a good *hiding*. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ They gave us a good *hiding* [=they defeated us badly] in that game.
on a hiding to nothing *Brit, informal* : on the way to failure : certain to fail
– compare [1]HIDING

hiding place *noun, pl* ~ **places** [*count*] : a place where someone or something is hidden or can be hidden ▪ My favorite *hiding place* when I was a kid was in the attic.

hi•er•ar•chy /ˈhajəˌrɑəki/ *noun, pl* **-chies** [*count*]
1 : a group that controls an organization and is divided into different levels ▪ The church *hierarchy* faced resistance to some of their/its decisions.
2 : a system in which people or things are placed in a series of levels with different importance or status ▪ He was at the bottom of the corporate *hierarchy*. ▪ a rigid *hierarchy* of social classes
– **hi•er•ar•chi•cal** /ˌhajəˈrɑəkɪkəl/ *also* **hi•er•ar•chic** /ˌhajəˈrɑəkɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ The army has a rigid *hierarchical* structure. – **hi•er•ar•chi•cal•ly** /ˌhajəˈrɑəkɪkli/ *adv* ▪ The church is organized *hierarchically*.

hi•ero•glyph /ˈhajərəˌglɪf/ *noun, pl* **-glyphs** [*count*] : a written character that looks like a picture : a character used in hieroglyphics



hieroglyphs

hi•ero•glyph•ic /ˌhajərəˈglɪfɪk/ *noun, pl* **-ics** [*count*] : HIEROGLYPH
– **hieroglyphic** *adj* ▪ *hieroglyphic* writing

hi•ero•glyph•ics /ˌhajərəˈglɪfɪks/ *noun* [*plural*] : a system of writing (such as the one used in ancient Egypt) that uses characters that look like pictures

hi–fi /ˈhaɪˈfaɪ/ *noun, pl* **-fis**
1 [*noncount*] : HIGH FIDELITY
2 [*count*] *somewhat old-fashioned* : a piece of electronic equipment for reproducing sound in a clear and accurate way ▪ We bought a *hi-fi* for the bedroom.
– **hi–fi** *adj* ▪ *hi-fi* sound reproduction ▪ a *hi-fi* system ▪ *hi-fi* equipment

hig•gle•dy–pig•gle•dy /ˌhɪgəldiˈpɪgəldi/ *adv, informal* : in a messy way : without order ▪ All the dishes were stacked *higgledy-piggledy* next to the sink.
– **higgledy–piggledy** *adj* ▪ a *higgledy-piggledy* assortment of things

[1]high /ˈhaɪ/ *adj* **high•er; -est**
1 a : rising or extending upward a great distance ▪ *high* mountains/peaks ▪ a *high* [=*tall*] building ▪ a *high* fly ball — opposite LOW **b** : extending or reaching upward more than other things of the same kind ▪ *high* boots ▪ a *high* collar ▪ a *high* fence ▪ *high* [=*tall*] grass — opposite LOW **c** : located far above the ground or another surface ▪ *high* clouds/altitudes ▪ The sun was *high* [=far above the horizon] in the eastern sky. ▪ The apartment has *high* ceilings. ▪ The cat was found *high* (up) in the tree. ▪ The airplane was *high* above the clouds. — opposite LOW **d** : having a specified height ▪ The bush is six feet *high*. ▪ a building 100 stories *high* ▪ The grass was knee-*high*. [=the grass reached a person's knees] ▪ waist-*high* water — see also SKY-HIGH **e** *always used before a noun* : rising above surrounding land ▪ They have a home in the *high* country. ▪ the *high* plains ▪ The houses are built on *high* ground. — opposite LOW
2 a : greater than usual in amount, number, or degree ▪ They were traveling at a *high* (rate of) speed. = They were traveling at *high* speed. ▪ They reached speeds as *high* as 100 mph. ▪ He's being treated for *high* blood pressure. ▪ *high* cholesterol ▪ a *high* fever ▪ She earns a *high* salary. ▪ *high* anxiety ▪ *high* heat/humidity/temperatures ▪ *high* interest rates ▪ *high* intelligence ▪ His books are in *high* demand. ▪ We liked the house, but the price was too *high*. ▪ He has received *high* praise for his efforts to help the homeless. ▪ They are paying him a *high* compliment. — opposite LOW **b** : near or at the top of a range ▪ Temperatures were in the *high* 80s. [=were around 87–89] — opposite LOW
3 a : very favorable ▪ He holds you in *high* regard/esteem. = He has a *high* opinion of you. [=he thinks highly of you; he regards you favorably] ▪ They started their trip with *high* hopes/expectations. [=they started their trip hoping/expecting that it would go well] ▪ Hopes are *high* that the strike will be settled soon. ▪ All the children were ***in high spirits*** [=were very happy and excited] on the last day of school. — opposite LOW **b** : very good ▪ We manufacture products of *high* quality. ▪ He got *high* marks/grades throughout college. ▪ *high* morale ▪ Our vacation ended ***on a high note***. [=it ended in a pleasant or enjoyable way] ▪ Our trip to the museum was the ***high point*** [=the most enjoyable part] of our vacation. — opposite LOW **c** : morally good ▪ She is a woman of *high* character. ▪ *high* ideals/principles ▪ *high* standards of conduct — opposite LOW
4 : above others in power, importance, etc. ▪ *high* officials = officials of *high* rank = *high*-ranking officials ▪ The decision will be reviewed by a *higher* court. ▪ Losing weight is a *high* priority for him. ▪ He has friends ***in high places***. [=he has friends who have power and influence] ▪ He is ***high on the list*** of possible candidates for the job. [=he is considered to be a very good choice for the job] — opposite LOW
5 : not low in sound ▪ a *high* voice : occurring near the top of the musical scale ▪ a *high* note — opposite LOW
6 *always used before a noun* : very strong or forceful ▪ *high* winds/explosives
7 : having qualities that appeal to intelligent people ▪ *high* art ▪ *high* comedy — opposite LOW
8 *always used before a noun* : filled with the most activity ▪ The rates at the resort are more expensive during (the) *high* season. [=the season when it is most busy or popular] ▪ The town is filled with tourists in ***high summer***. [=in the middle of summer]
9 *always used before a noun* : of or relating to people who have and spend a lot of money on travel, good food, etc. : rich and luxurious ▪ *high* society/living ▪ the *high* life
10 : very exciting or intense ▪ *high* adventure ▪ The hostage crisis has provided many moments of ***high drama***. [=many highly dramatic moments]
11 *of a river, stream, etc.* : rising farther up the banks than usual : having more water than usual ▪ The river is *high*. — opposite LOW
12 *not used before a noun, informal* : intoxicated by alcohol or drugs ▪ All he wanted to do was to ***get high***. ▪ He was ***as high as a kite***. [=very high; very drunk or intoxicated] — often + *on* ▪ He was *high on* cocaine.
come hell or high water see HELL
high and mighty *informal* **1** : having or showing the insulting attitude of people who believe that they are better or more important than other people ▪ He's not so *high and mighty* now that he needs our help. ▪ I can't stand her when she ***acts/gets (all) high and mighty*** like that. **2 *the high and (the) mighty*** : people who are important and powerful ▪ She likes to rub elbows with *the high and mighty*.
high in : containing a large amount of (something) ▪ These vegetables are *high in* nitrogen. ▪ a diet *high in* fiber
high on *US, informal* : excited or enthusiastic about (someone or something) ▪ The coach is very *high on* this new player. ▪ Party leaders are *high on* her prospects.
in high dudgeon see DUDGEON
it's high time *informal* ✧ If *it's high time* to do something, it is time to do something that should have been done a long time ago. ▪ *It's high time* we made some changes around here. ▪ *It's high time* (that) you cleaned your room.
pay a high price see [1]PAY
to high heaven(s) see HEAVEN

synonyms HIGH, TALL, and LOFTY mean being above the usual level in height. HIGH is used for things and not people, and it refers to distance from the ground or some other surface. ▪ A *high* fence surrounded the house. TALL is used for both people and things. ▪ *tall* buildings ▪ She is *tall* for her age. LOFTY is a literary word that is used for something that rises to a very great or impressive height. ▪ *lofty* mountains

[2]high *adv* **high•er; -est**
1 : at or to a high place or level ▪ The painter climbed *high* on the ladder. ▪ The hawks were circling *high* in the air/sky. ▪ The letters were stacked *high* on the table. ▪ a *high*-flying airplane ▪ If you want to be successful, you have to ***aim high***. [=you have to be ambitious]
2 : at a high rate ▪ Don't value yourself too *high*. [=*highly*] ▪ a *high*-paid lawyer
3 : at a high price ▪ buy low and sell *high*
4 *informal* : in a rich manner : in the manner of people who have and spend a lot of money ▪ He is living pretty *high*.
be riding high see [1]RIDE
fly high see [1]FLY
high and dry : in a helpless position : without help or protection ▪ The company suddenly went out of business and left its customers *high and dry*.
high and low : EVERYWHERE ▪ They've searched/looked *high and low* for a new car that they can afford.
high off the hog *or* ***high on the hog*** *US, informal* : in a luxurious style ▪ Those movie stars live pretty *high off the hog*.
hold your head (up) high see [1]HEAD

run high see [1]RUN
set the bar higher see [1]BAR

[3]high *noun, pl* **highs**
1 [*count*] : a high point or level ▪ Oil prices reached a new *high* last winter. ▪ an all-time/record *high* ▪ She achieved a career *high* in points [=she scored more points than she ever had before] in last night's game. ▪ The *high* [=the highest temperature] today was 75. ▪ The forecast is for showers with *highs* in the 70s. ▪ He talked about the ***highs and lows*** [=the good parts and bad parts] of his college years.
2 [*noncount*] *US* : a gear that is used for faster speeds of travel in a vehicle ▪ He shifted into *high*. — called also (*US*) *high gear*
3 [*count*] *informal* : a state of intoxication produced by a drug ▪ The *high* only lasted a few minutes.
4 [*count*] *weather* : an area of high atmospheric pressure ▪ A strong *high* brought clear skies and warm temperatures.
from on high **1 a** : from God or heaven ▪ He claimed to have heard a voice *from on high*. **b** : from people with power or authority ▪ orders *from on high* **2** : from a high place ▪ We looked down *from on high* at the lush valley.
on a high *informal* : feeling happy and excited ▪ He was *on a high* after receiving the promotion.
on high : in the sky : up above ▪ the clouds *on high* : in heaven ▪ the gods *on high*

high•ball /'haɪˌbɑ:l/ *noun, pl* **-balls** [*count*] *US, somewhat old-fashioned* : a drink of alcoholic liquor mixed with water or another liquid and served in a tall glass

high beam *noun, pl* ~ **beams** *US* : the setting of a vehicle's headlights that makes the brightest light [*noncount*] The car's headlights were on *high beam*. [*plural*] Turn off your *high beams*. — called also (*Brit*) *full beam*; compare LOW BEAM

high•born /'haɪ'boɚn/ *adj, formal* : born into a family with very high social status ▪ a *highborn* lady

high•brow /'haɪˌbraʊ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *often disapproving* : interested in serious art, literature, ideas, etc. ▪ The book was a popular success, but it was trashed by *highbrow* literary critics. : relating to or intended for people who are interested in serious art, literature, ideas, etc. ▪ It's an art film that you can see only at *highbrow* theaters. — compare MIDDLEBROW, LOWBROW
– **highbrow** /'haɪˌbraʊ/ *noun, pl* **-brows** [*count*] ▪ The book is generally looked down upon by literary *highbrows*.

high chair *noun, pl* ~ **chairs** [*count*] : a child's chair that has long legs so that the child sits at the height of a dining table

high–class /'haɪ'klæs, *Brit* 'haɪ'klɑ:s/ *adj* **high•er–class**; **high•est–class** [*also more* ~; *most* ~] : very fancy, wealthy, or expensive ▪ I felt out of place at such a *high-class* party. ▪ a *high-class* neighborhood ▪ The restaurant is trying to attract a *higher-class* clientele. — compare LOWER-CLASS

high command *noun* [*singular*] : the most powerful and important leaders of an organization or military force ▪ the Republican *high command*

High Court *noun* [*singular*] : SUPREME COURT

high day *noun, pl* ~ **days** [*count*] *Brit* : a day when a religious festival or holiday is observed : HOLY DAY — usually used in the phrase ***high days and holidays***

high–definition *adj, always used before a noun, of a television* : having a very clear picture and a wide screen ▪ a new *high-definition* TV — see also HDTV

high–end /'haɪ'ɛnd/ *adj* **high•er–end**; **high•est–end** [*also more* ~; *most* ~] *US* : higher in price and of better quality than most others ▪ He designs clothes that are available only at *high-end* [=*upscale*] boutiques and department stores. ▪ This is a *high-end* camera with lots of extra features.

high•er /'hajɚ/ *adj, always used before a noun*
1 : far above the ground ▪ The forecast is for strong winds at *higher* elevations.
2 : located toward the north ▪ in the *higher* latitudes
3 : above another or others in position, rank, or order ▪ *higher* and lower courts
4 : more advanced or developed ▪ *higher* and lower animals

higher education *noun* [*noncount*] : education or learning at a college or university ▪ Students and their parents worry about the rising cost of *higher education*.

higher learning *noun* [*noncount*] : education or learning at a college or university ▪ He founded a prestigious ***institution of higher learning***. [=a college or university]

higher power *noun, pl* ~ **powers** [*count*] : a spirit or being (such as God) that has great power, strength, knowledge, etc., and that can affect nature and the lives of people ▪ belief in a *higher power*

high•er–up /ˌhajɚ'ʌp/ *noun, pl* **-ups** [*count*] *informal* : a person in an organization or government who has a lot of power and authority ▪ Her hard work and clever ideas impressed the *higher-ups* and earned her a promotion.

high•fa•lu•tin /ˌhaɪfə'lu:tn̩/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *informal* : seeming or trying to seem great or important ▪ I enjoy the opera, but not all of the *highfalutin* [=*pretentious*] people it seems to attract. ▪ a *highfalutin* way of talking

high fashion *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : the newest fashions that are usually bought by only a small number of people ▪ boutiques that sell *high fashion* to the very wealthy
2 : HAUTE COUTURE

high fidelity *noun* [*noncount*] : the very good quality that some recorded sounds or copied images have
– **high–fidelity** *adj* ▪ *high-fidelity* [=*hi-fi*] recordings ▪ *high-fidelity* sound ▪ *high-fidelity* speakers

high finance *noun* [*noncount*] : activities (such as buying companies and investing in stocks) that involve large amounts of money ▪ the world of *high finance*

high five *noun, pl* ~ **fives** [*count*] *chiefly US, informal* : a gesture in which you slap the palm of your hand against the palm of someone else's hand in the air usually to show that you are happy about a victory or accomplishment ▪ People began cheering and giving each other *high fives*.
– **high–five** *verb* **-fives**; **-fived**; **-fiv•ing** *US, informal* [*no obj*] People were cheering and *high-fiving* when the election results were announced. [+ *obj*] People cheered and *high-fived* each other.

high–fli•er *or* **high–fly•er** /'haɪ'flajɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a person who is very successful or very determined to succeed in business, politics, etc. ▪ young *high-fliers* in the computer industry

high–flown /'haɪ'floʊn/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *disapproving* : using fancy words that are meant to sound important and impressive ▪ Her books are filled with abstract ideas and *high-flown* language. ▪ *high-flown* rhetoric

high–fly•ing /'haɪ'flajɪŋ/ *adj, always used before a noun* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : flying far above the ground ▪ *high-flying* airplanes
2 : very successful or determined to succeed ▪ a *high-flying* young executive ▪ a *high-flying* company

high gear *noun* [*singular*] *US* : [3]HIGH 2 ▪ She shifted the car into *high gear*.
in/into high gear : in or into a state of great or intense activity ▪ The project is now *in high gear*. [=(*Brit*) *top gear*] ▪ Fuel prices are expected to rise as the summer travel season ***kicks/moves into high gear***.

high–grade /'haɪ'greɪd/ *adj* **high•er–grade**; **high•est–grade**
1 : of a very good quality ▪ *high-grade* paper/steel
2 : medically serious : relating to a dangerous medical condition ▪ a *high-grade* tumor/fever

high ground *noun*
the high ground : a position in which you have an advantage over others ▪ They claim to have *the* (intellectual) *high ground* in this debate. [=they claim to have the (intellectually) better position] — often used in the phase ***the moral high ground*** ▪ These countries lost/ceded *the moral high ground* [=they stopped being morally better than others; they lost the right to consider themselves morally better than others] when they entered the war to protect their economic interests. ▪ She believes she has *the moral high ground* on this issue. [=she believes her position on the issue is the morally correct one]

high–hand•ed /'haɪ'hændəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not having or showing any interest in the rights, opinions, or feelings of other people ▪ arrogant and *high-handed* public officials ▪ She's notorious for her *high-handed* treatment of employees.
– **high–hand•ed•ly** *adv* ▪ treating her employees *high-handedly* – **high–hand•ed•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

high–heeled *adj, always used before a noun, of a shoe or boot* : having a tall heel ▪ *high-heeled* pumps

high heels *noun* [*plural*] : women's shoes that have tall heels ▪ For the party she wore a black silk dress and *high heels*. — see picture at SHOE

High Holiday *noun, pl* ~ **-days** [*count*] : either one of two important Jewish holidays: **a** : ROSH HASHANAH **b** : YOM KIPPUR

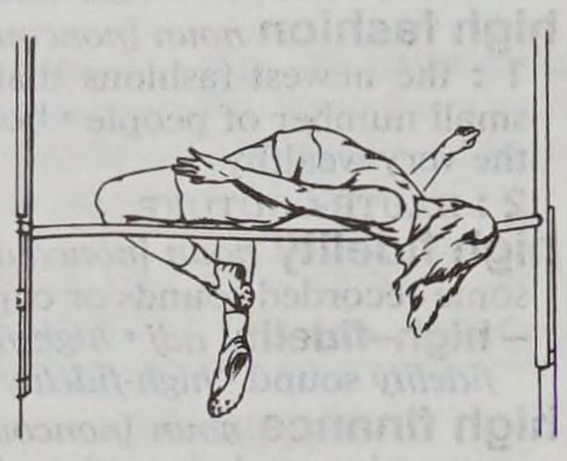
high horse *noun* [*singular*] *informal* ✧ If you are on *a/your* ***high horse***, you are talking or behaving in a way that shows that you think you are better than other people or that you know more about something than other people do. ▪ I'm not going to get up on *a high horse* and tell you that you're wrong for doing this. ▪ Oh, climb/get (down) off *your high horse*. You don't know any more about it than the rest of us.

high jinks /ˈhaɪˌʤɪŋks/ *noun* [*plural*] : wild or playful behavior ▪ It's a silly movie about adolescent *high jinks*.

high jump *noun*

be (in) for the high jump *Brit, informal* : to be certain to be punished ▪ If the boss finds out what we've done, we*'re (in) for the high jump*! [=*we're in for it*; *we're in trouble*]

the high jump : an athletic event in which people compete by trying to jump over a bar high above the ground ▪ He won the gold medal in *the high jump*.



high jump

– **high jumper** *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*]

high·land /ˈhaɪlənd/ *noun, pl* **-lands** [*count*] : an area where there are many mountains or where the land is high above the level of the sea — usually plural ▪ a home in the *highlands* ▪ the Scottish *Highlands* [=the mountainous area in the northern part of Scotland] — compare LOWLAND

– **highland** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ a *highland* region/village – **high·land·er** /ˈhaɪləndɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ rivalries between *highlanders* and lowlanders

high–lev·el /ˈhaɪˈlɛvəl/ *adj, always used before a noun* **high·er–level**; **high·est–level** : of great importance or high rank ▪ These military secrets are known only to a few *high-level* government officials.

[1]high·light /ˈhaɪˌlaɪt/ *noun, pl* **-lights** [*count*]

1 : something (such as an event or a detail) that is very interesting, exciting, or important : the best part of something ▪ I missed the game, but I saw the *highlights* on the evening news. ▪ The jazz concert was the *highlight* [=*high point*] of our trip. — compare LOWLIGHT

2 : a light spot or area ▪ brown hair with (natural) gold *highlights* ▪ She added *highlights* to her hair. [=she dyed parts of her hair a lighter color than the rest] ▪ (*technical*) the *highlights* of a photograph/picture/painting

[2]highlight *verb* **-lights**; **-light·ed**; **-light·ing** [+ *obj*]

1 a : to make or try to make people notice or be aware of (someone or something) : to direct attention to (someone or something) ▪ Unfortunately, the media insisted upon *highlighting* his troubled past. ▪ The speech *highlighted* [=*emphasized*] the importance of improving education in rural communities. **b** : to be a very interesting, exciting, or important part of (something) ▪ Our trip was *highlighted* by a great jazz concert we attended.

2 : to mark (something, such as text) with a bright color ▪ The students *highlighted* important vocabulary words in their textbooks. ▪ Important names and dates in each chapter are *highlighted*. ▪ (*computers*) Use your mouse to *highlight* the text that you want to revise.

high·light·er /ˈhaɪˌlaɪtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a special pen with brightly colored ink that you can see through ✧ People use highlighters to mark parts of a page so that those parts will be easy to see.

high·ly /ˈhaɪli/ *adv* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 a : to a great degree ▪ She is one of the most *highly* respected journalists in the country. ▪ This is a *highly* [=*very*] sensitive matter. ▪ *highly* accomplished/successful ▪ That idea seems *highly* [=*extremely*] unlikely to me. **b** : in an amount or number that is greater than usual : to a high degree ▪ a *highly* paid [=high-paid] executive ▪ *highly* priced items

2 : in an approving way : with approval ▪ He speaks *highly* [=*favorably*] of you. ▪ They regard her *highly*.

highly strung *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *chiefly Brit* : HIGH-STRUNG

high–mind·ed /ˈhaɪˈmaɪndəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having or showing intelligence and a strong moral character ▪ a *high-minded* person ▪ *high-minded* intentions ▪ a novel with *high-minded* themes

– **high–mind·ed·ly** *adv* ▪ speaking *high-mindedly* – **high–mind·ed·ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

High·ness /ˈhaɪnəs/ *noun, pl* **-ness·es** [*count*] — used as a title for a member of a royal family; used with *his, her*, or *your* ▪ *Her Highness* the Queen ▪ *His* Royal *Highness* the Prince of Wales ▪ *Your Highness*

high noon *noun* [*singular*]

1 *somewhat old-fashioned* : exactly noon ▪ The duel was to take place at *high noon*.

2 : the time when a fight or contest will happen or be decided ▪ We are approaching *high noon* of the election campaign.

3 : the most important or active time of something ▪ the *high noon* of her career

high–oc·tane *adj*

1 *of engine fuel* : of a good quality that allows an engine to run efficiently ▪ *high-octane* gasoline

2 *informal* : very powerful, strong, or effective ▪ *high-octane* football ▪ *high-octane* coffee [=coffee that contains a lot of caffeine]

high performance *adj, always used before a noun* : better, faster, or more efficient than others ▪ *high performance* cars/airplanes/boats ▪ *high performance* running shoes

high–pitched /ˈhaɪˈpɪʧt/ *adj* **high·er–pitched**; **high·est–pitched** [*also more* ~; *most* ~] : making a high sound : HIGH ▪ She has a *high-pitched* voice. ▪ The car's brakes produced a *high-pitched* squeal.

high–pow·ered /ˈhaɪˈpawɚd/ *also* **high–pow·er** /ˈhaɪˈpawɚ/ *adj*

1 *of a person* : very successful, important, and powerful ▪ a *high-powered* executive

2 : very energetic or forceful ▪ a *high-powered* performance by a rock musician

3 *of a machine or device* : very powerful ▪ *high-powered* computers ▪ *high-power* lasers

high–pressure *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : using or involving forceful methods to sell something ▪ a *high-pressure* salesman ▪ *high-pressure* sales tactics

2 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : causing or involving a lot of mental or emotional stress : very stressful ▪ She has a *high-pressure* job on Wall Street. ▪ the *high-pressure* world of advertising

3 a : having or using a lot of force or pressure from air, water, etc. ▪ a *high-pressure* hose ▪ gas stored in a *high-pressure* container **b** *of weather* : having a high atmospheric pressure ▪ A *high-pressure* system will bring us better weather later this week. ▪ a *high-pressure* center/area

high priest *noun, pl* ~ **priests** [*count*]

1 *informal* : a person (especially a man) who is a leader in a particular profession, subject, etc. — often + *of* ▪ the *high priest of* psychotherapy ▪ the *high priest of* horror fiction

2 : an important priest in some religions

high priestess *noun, pl* ~ **-esses** [*count*]

1 *informal* : a woman who is a leader in a particular profession, subject, etc. — often + *of* ▪ a *high priestess of* the civil rights movement ▪ the *high priestess of* the blues

2 : an important priestess in some religions

high–profile *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : attracting a lot of attention in newspapers, on television, etc. ▪ a *high-profile* legal case ▪ a *high-profile* athlete ▪ She has a very *high-profile* job.

high–ranking *adj, always used before a noun* **high·er–ranking**; **high·est–ranking** : having a high rank or position ▪ *high-ranking* officials

high–rise /ˈhaɪˈraɪz/ *adj, always used before a noun*

1 *of a building* : very tall : having many floors or stories ▪ a *high-rise* apartment building

2 : made up of high-rise buildings ▪ a *high-rise* district

– **high rise** *noun, pl* ~ **rises** [*count*] ▪ My apartment is in the *high rise* on the corner.

high–risk *adj*

1 : likely to result in failure, harm, or injury : having a lot of risk ▪ a *high-risk* [=*dangerous*] activity ▪ *high-risk* investments

2 : more likely than others to get a particular disease, condition, or injury ▪ *high-risk* patients ▪ patients in the *high-risk* group

high road *noun, pl* ~ **roads** [*count*] *old-fashioned* : a main road

the high road **1** *chiefly US* : a morally proper way of doing something ▪ Several local news programs reported the rumor, but the city newspaper ***took the high road*** [=behaved properly] and waited to see if anyone could confirm the story. **2** : an easy way to do something ▪ The book claims to teach *the high road* to financial success.

high roller *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] *informal*

1 : a rich person who spends a lot of money ▪ a *high roller* known for his lavish parties

2 : a person who gambles large amounts of money ▪ The casino offers special deals to attract *high rollers*.

high school *noun, pl* ~ **schools**

1 [*count, noncount*] : a school in the U.S. and Canada for older children ▪ She's in *high school*. = She goes to *high school*. = She attends *high school*. ▪ He graduated from Manchester *High School*. — often used before another noun ▪ the *high school* track team ▪ *high-school* students ✧ Children in the U.S. and Canada attend high school for their last three or usually four years of schooling before possibly going to a college or university. — compare ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL, MIDDLE SCHOOL

2 [*singular*] — used in the U.K. in the names of secondary schools ▪ She sat A levels at Slough *High School* for Girls.

high schooler *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] *US* : a high-school student

high seas *noun* [*plural*] : the open part of a sea or ocean : the part of a sea or ocean that is away from land ▪ The ship was attacked on the *high seas*.

high–security *adj, always used before a noun* : carefully locked, protected, or guarded ▪ a *high-security* prison/facility

High Sheriff *noun, pl* ~ **-iffs** [*count*] *Brit* : SHERIFF 2

high–sound•ing /ˈhaɪˈsaʊndɪŋ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *disapproving* : using words that are meant to sound important and impressive ▪ *high-sounding* rhetoric/language

high–speed /ˈhaɪˈspi:d/ *adj*

1 : designed to go or move very fast ▪ *high-speed* trains

2 : going or moving very fast ▪ The robbers led the police on a *high-speed* chase. ▪ a *high-speed* Internet connection

high–spir•it•ed /ˈhaɪˈspirətəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : full of energy or enthusiasm : LIVELY ▪ a *high-spirited* group of school children ▪ She gave a *high-spirited* performance.

– **high–spir•it•ed•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

high street *noun, pl* ~ **streets** [*count*] *Brit* : a town's main street where there are many shops, banks, etc. ▪ 74 *High Street* — often used before another noun ▪ *high street* shops/retailers

high–strung /ˈhaɪˈstrʌŋ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *chiefly US* : very nervous or easily upset ▪ stories of *high-strung* performers who place unreasonable demands on the people who work with them ▪ Dogs of this breed are often *high-strung*. [=(*chiefly Brit*) *highly strung*]

high•tail /ˈhaɪˌteɪl/ *verb* **-tails**; **-tailed**; **-tail•ing**

hightail it *US, informal* : to leave a place as quickly as possible ▪ When we heard the night watchman, we *hightailed it* out of there as quick as we could.

high tea *noun, pl* ~ **teas** [*count, noncount*] *chiefly Brit* : an early evening meal at which tea and often cold meat and sandwiches are usually served

high–tech *also* **hi–tech** /ˈhaɪˈtɛk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : relating to or using new electronic devices and technology ▪ *high-tech* devices/materials ▪ *high-tech* solutions ▪ *high-tech* businesses ▪ The methods they use are very *high-tech*.

high tech *also* **hi–tech** *noun* [*noncount*] : HIGH TECHNOLOGY

high technology *noun* [*noncount*] : the use or creation of new scientific methods or materials especially when they involve computers or electronic devices ▪ advances in *high technology* ▪ This region has become a center of *high technology*. — often used before another noun ▪ *high-technology* [=*high-tech*] products/industries

high–tension *adj, always used before a noun* : having or using a very powerful flow of electricity : HIGH-VOLTAGE ▪ *high-tension* wires

high–test *adj* : HIGH-OCTANE ▪ *high-test* fuel ▪ *high-test* vodka

high tide *noun, pl* ~ **tides** [*count, noncount*] : the tide when the water is at its highest level ▪ At *high tide* the water covers the rocks completely. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ He became involved in social issues at the *high tide* of the civil rights movement. [=at the most active and important time of the civil rights movement] — compare LOW TIDE

high–toned /ˈhaɪˌtoʊnd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *chiefly US*

1 : having a high moral or intellectual tone or quality ▪ a *high-toned* movie/play ▪ *high-toned* moral themes

2 : HIGH-SOUNDING ▪ *high-toned* phrases

high–top /ˈhaɪˌtɑ:p/ *adj, always used before a noun, chiefly US, of a shoe or sneaker* : extending up over the ankle ▪ *high-top* sneakers

– **high–tops** /ˈhaɪˌtɑ:ps/ *noun* [*plural*] ▪ The kids wore jeans and *high-tops*. [=high-top sneakers]

high treason *noun* [*noncount*] : TREASON ▪ The conspirators were hanged for *high treason*.

high–up *noun, pl* **-ups** [*count*] *Brit* : HIGHER-UP

high–volt•age /ˈhaɪˈvoʊltɪʤ/ *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : having or using a very powerful flow of electricity ▪ *high-voltage* wires

2 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having or showing a lot of energy ▪ a *high-voltage* [=*dynamic, electric*] performance/performer

high water *noun*

come hell or high water see HELL

high–water mark *noun, pl* ~ **marks** [*count*]

1 : the time when something is most active, successful, etc. : PEAK ▪ It was the *high-water mark* of her career.

2 : the highest level that water from a river, ocean, etc., reaches especially during a flood

high•way /ˈhaɪˌweɪ/ *noun, pl* **-ways** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a main road that connects cities, towns, etc. ▪ I had heard there was a traffic jam on the *highway*, so I took the side roads. — compare EXPRESSWAY, FREEWAY, INTERSTATE

high•way•man /ˈhaɪˌweɪmən/ *noun, pl* **-men** /-mən/ [*count*] : a man especially in the past who stopped travelers on roads and robbed them

highway robbery *noun* [*noncount*] *US, informal* : the practice of charging a price that is very high and usually unfair for something ▪ Charging that much to see a movie is *highway robbery*!

high wire *noun, pl* ~ **wires** [*count*] : a rope or wire on which a performer walks and does tricks high up in the air to entertain people especially as part of a circus : a high tightrope — usually singular ▪ walking/performing on the *high wire* — often used before another noun ▪ a ***high-wire act*** [=a circus performance on a high wire] — sometimes used figuratively to refer to something that is difficult or dangerous ▪ The company is walking a financial *high wire*. [=behaving in a financially risky way] ▪ a financial *high-wire act*

hi•jack /ˈhaɪˌʤæk/ *verb* **-jacks**; **-jacked**; **-jack•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 a : to stop and steal (a moving vehicle) ▪ He *hijacked* a truck, threatening the driver at gunpoint. **b** : to steal (something) from a moving vehicle that you have stopped ▪ A band of robbers *hijacked* the load of furs from the truck.

2 : to take control of (an aircraft) by force ▪ A group of terrorists *hijacked* the plane.

3 : to take or take control of (something) for your own purposes ▪ The organization has been *hijacked* by radicals.

– **hijack** *noun, pl* **-jacks** [*count*] ▪ recent airline *hijacks*

– **hi•jack•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ airline *hijackers*

– **hijacking** *noun, pl* **-ings** [*count*] ▪ recent airline *hijackings*

[1]hike /ˈhaɪk/ *verb* **hikes**; **hiked**; **hik•ing**

1 : to walk a long distance especially for pleasure or exercise : to go on a hike [*no obj*] We spent the afternoon *hiking* around the lake. ▪ She *hiked* 10 miles in the hot desert sun. ▪ We *hiked* (up) to the camp. [+ *obj*] We *hiked* some of the shorter trails. ▪ Our neighbors spent their vacation *hiking* the Rockies.

2 [+ *obj*] : to suddenly increase the cost, amount, or level of (something) ▪ The state keeps *hiking* the tax on cigarettes. ▪ There's talk of *hiking* the eligibility age.

3 [+ *obj*] : to pull or lift (something, such as yourself or part of your clothing) with a quick movement ▪ I *hiked* myself onto the ledge. — usually + *up* ▪ She *hiked up* her long skirt and stepped over the hedge.

4 [+ *obj*] *American football* : to pass (the ball) back to the quarterback at the start of a play : SNAP ▪ The center *hiked* the ball too soon, and the quarterback fumbled.

– **hik•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ The *hikers* wandered away from the trail and got lost. – **hiking** *adj* ▪ *hiking* boots

– **hiking** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ My hobbies include *hiking* and photography. ▪ Our neighbors like to ***go hiking*** in the mountains.

[2]hike *noun, pl* **hikes** [*count*]

1 : a usually long walk especially for pleasure or exercise ▪ We went for a *hike* around the lake. ▪ a 10-mile *hike*

2 : a usually sudden increase in the cost, level, or amount of something ▪ The school lost a number of students after the tuition *hike*. ▪ a price/tax/wage *hike*

take a hike *US, informal + impolite* — used in speech as an angry way of telling someone to leave

hi•lar•i•ous /hɪˈlerijəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : very funny ▪ Some people don't like his comedy, but I think he's *hilarious*.

▪ She gave us a *hilarious* account of her first days as a teacher. ▪ a *hilarious* comedy

– **hi•lar•i•ous•ly** *adv* ▪ a *hilariously* irreverent comedy

hi•lar•i•ty /hɪˈlerəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] : noisy fun or laughter ▪ My attempt to carve the turkey was a source of great *hilarity* at the dinner table.

hill /ˈhɪl/ *noun, pl* **hills**

1 [*count*] : a usually rounded area of land that is higher than the land around it but that is not as high as a mountain ▪ She watched the sun set behind the *hills*. ▪ The house was built at the very top of the *hill*.

2 [*count*] : an area of sloping ground on a road, path, etc. ▪ Our driveway is a long, steep *hill*. ▪ He came barreling down the *hill* at 65 miles per hour.

3 [*count*] : a pile of something : HEAP, MOUND ▪ The plows came and cleared the streets, forming a *hill* of snow on the street corner.

4 *the Hill* *US, informal* — used to refer to the U.S. Congress ▪ a proposed new law that is being debated on *the Hill* [=on Capitol Hill]

a hill of beans *chiefly US, informal* : something that has little or no value — used in negative statements ▪ These proposals don't amount to *a hill of beans*. = These proposals aren't worth *a hill of beans*. [=these proposals have no value; they are useless]

over the hill *informal* : old and no longer successful, attractive, etc. ▪ an athlete who's *over the hill* ▪ an *over-the-hill* actor

hill•bil•ly /ˈhɪlˌbɪli/ *noun, pl* **-lies** [*count*] *US, usually disapproving* : a person who lives in the country far away from cities and who is often regarded as someone who lacks education, who is stupid, etc. ▪ Other kids called her a *hillbilly* because of her accent and her simple clothes.

hillbilly music *noun* [*noncount*] *US* : COUNTRY MUSIC

hill•ock /ˈhɪlək/ *noun, pl* **-ocks** [*count*] : a small hill

hill•side /ˈhɪlˌsaɪd/ *noun, pl* **-sides** [*count*] : the side of a hill ▪ Streams of rainwater rushed down the *hillside*. — often used before another noun ▪ a *hillside* neighborhood

hill•top /ˈhɪlˌtɑːp/ *noun, pl* **-tops** [*count*] : the top of a hill ▪ They built their house on a *hilltop*. — often used before another noun ▪ a *hilltop* view ▪ a *hilltop* town

hilly /ˈhili/ *adj* **hill•i•er; -est** : having many hills ▪ *hilly* terrain ▪ *hilly* roads.

– **hill•i•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

hilt /ˈhilt/ *noun, pl* **hilts** [*count*] : the handle of a sword or dagger

to the hilt : as much as possible : to the greatest possible limit or extent ▪ The farm was mortgaged (up) *to the hilt*. ▪ She played the role *to the hilt*.

him /ˈhɪm, ɪm/ *pronoun, objective form of* HE

1 — used to refer to a certain man, boy, or male animal as the object of a verb or preposition ▪ I hadn't heard from my brother in a while, so I gave *him* a call. ▪ Do you know *him*? ▪ His mother punished *him* for hitting his little sister. ▪ I often play basketball with *him*.

2 — used to indicate either a male or female object of a verb or preposition in general statements or when the sex of the person is unknown ▪ If any student misbehaves, send *him* to the office. ✧ This use of *him* was common in the past but is now often avoided because it is considered sexist.

him•self /hɪmˈsɛlf/ *pronoun*

1 : that same man, boy, or male animal: **a** — used as the object of a verb or preposition to refer to a man, boy, or male animal that has already been mentioned ▪ He accidentally cut *himself* while shaving. ▪ He bought *himself* a new wallet. = He bought a new wallet for *himself*. ▪ He doesn't consider *himself* old. = He doesn't think of *himself* as (being) old. ▪ The cat washed *himself*. ▪ He wrote a note to *himself*. ▪ He had the house (all) *to himself*. [=he was alone in the house] ▪ "It's almost morning," he said to *himself*. ▪ He wanted to see it ***for himself***. [=he wanted to see it rather than have someone tell him about it, describe it to him, etc.] **b** — used for emphasis to refer again to a man, boy, or male animal that has already been mentioned ▪ He told me *himself* that he was broke. = He *himself* told me (that) he was broke. ▪ He reminded them that he was young once *himself*. ▪ The proposal was made by the governor *himself*. ▪ The composer *himself* conducted the symphony.

2 : that same person — used to indicate either a male or female object of a verb or preposition ▪ Everyone must fend for *himself*. [=all people must fend for themselves] ✧ This use of *himself* was common in the past but is now often avoided because it is considered sexist.

3 : his normal or healthy self ▪ After a good night's sleep, he felt like *himself* again. ▪ He's not *himself* today; something must be bothering him. ▪ He was nervous about meeting them, but I told him to just ***be himself***. [=to behave like he normally does]

by himself **1** : without any help from other people ▪ He shoveled the driveway *by himself*. ▪ He did his homework (all) *by himself*. **2** : with nobody else : ALONE ▪ He lives in the house *by himself*. ▪ He likes to travel *by himself*.

every man for himself see [1]MAN

[1]hind /ˈhaɪnd/ *adj, always used before a noun* : at or near the back of something ▪ The dog stood on his *hind* [=*rear*] legs, begging for food.

[2]hind *noun, pl* **hinds** [*count*] *chiefly Brit* : a female deer : DOE; *especially* : a female red deer — compare HART

hin•der /ˈhɪndɚ/ *verb* **-ders; -dered; -der•ing** [+ *obj*] : to make (something, such as a task or action) slow or difficult ▪ Their journey was *hindered* [=*impeded, slowed*] by snow and high winds. ▪ The witness refused to cooperate, *hindering* the investigation. ▪ The country's economic growth is being *hindered* by the sanctions. ▪ It's not clear whether the change will help or *hinder* our project.

hinder from [*phrasal verb*] ***hinder (someone or something) from (something)*** : to stop (someone) from (doing something) ▪ Financial troubles *hindered* [=*prevented*] him *from* going on the trip. ▪ Unfortunately, her ignorance has never *hindered* [=*stopped*] her *from* giving her opinion.

Hin•di /ˈhɪndi/ *noun* [*singular*] : an official language of India

– **Hindi** *adj* ▪ *Hindi* grammar

hind•quar•ter /ˈhaɪndˌkwoɚtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*] : the back left or right part of the body of an animal with four feet — usually plural ▪ the dog's/horse's *hindquarters*

hin•drance /ˈhɪndrəns/ *noun, pl* **-drances**

1 [*count*] : a person or thing that makes a situation difficult : a person or thing that hinders someone or something ▪ She wanted to sign up for the class, but the cost was a *hindrance*. [=the class cost too much] ▪ Is my presence here a help or a *hindrance*? — often + *to* ▪ I'm afraid you're more of a *hindrance to* me than a help at this point. ▪ These sanctions are a *hindrance to* the country's economic growth.

2 [*noncount*] : the act of making it difficult for someone to act or for something to be done : the act of hindering someone or something ▪ He should be allowed to live where he chooses ***without hindrance***. = (*chiefly Brit*) He should be allowed to live where he chooses ***without let or hindrance***.

hind•sight /ˈhaɪndˌsaɪt/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the knowledge and understanding that you have about an event only after it has happened ▪ It's easy for us to say that the war was wrong, but we have the advantage/benefit of *hindsight*. ▪ ***In hindsight***, it's clear that there were alternatives. = ***With hindsight***, we clearly see that there were alternatives. — see also *twenty-twenty hindsight* at TWENTY-TWENTY

Hin•du /ˈhɪnˌduː/ *noun, pl* **-dus** [*count*] : a follower of Hinduism

– **Hindu** *adj* ▪ *Hindu* philosophy ▪ They are *Hindu*. [=they are Hindus]

Hin•du•ism /ˈhɪnˌduːˌɪzəm/ *noun* [*singular*] : the main religion of India which includes the worship of many gods and the belief that after you die you return to life in a different form

[1]hinge /ˈhɪnʤ/ *noun, pl* **hing•es** [*count*] : a usually metal piece that attaches a door, gate, or cover to something and allows it to open and close — see picture at DOOR

[2]hinge *verb* **hinges; hinged; hing•ing** [+ *obj*] : to attach (a door, gate, or cover) by hinges — usually used as *(be) hinged* ▪ a storage trunk with a *hinged* lid

hinge on *also* ***hinge upon*** [*phrasal verb*] ***hinge on/upon (something)*** : to be determined or decided by (something) : to depend on (something) ▪ The outcome of the election *hinges on* how the candidates perform in the debate.

[1]hint /ˈhɪnt/ *noun, pl* **hints** [*count*]

1 : a small piece of information that helps you guess an answer or do something more easily ▪ I can't tell you the answer, but I'll give you a *hint*. [=*clue*] ▪ The book includes helpful *hints* [=*tips*] for inexperienced cooks.

2 : information about something given in an indirect way ▪ Her face gave me a *hint* of what she was thinking.; *especially* : a statement that suggests something that you do not want to say in a direct way ▪ He's been ***dropping hints*** that he'd like to be invited to the party. [=he has been saying things that show that he wants to be invited] ▪ When she told me

how much work she had to do, I ***got/took the hint*** [=I understood what she was suggesting] and left. ▪ "I have a lot of work to do." "OK, I'll leave. I can ***take a hint***."

3 : a very small amount of something ▪ The sauce has a subtle *hint* of garlic. ▪ It was late March, but there was still a *hint* [=*trace*] of winter in the air. ▪ He had a *hint* of a German accent. ▪ They'll betray you at the first *hint* of trouble.

²hint *verb* **hints**; **hint•ed**; **hint•ing** : to say (something) or give information about (something) in an indirect way [+ *obj*] — usually + *that* ▪ He's been *hinting that* he might run for mayor. [*no obj*] I keep *hinting*, but she's not catching on. I think I need to be more direct. ▪ The boss *hinted* about possible layoffs.

hint at [*phrasal verb*] ***hint at (something)*** : to talk about (something) in an indirect way ▪ He's been *hinting at* the possibility of running for mayor. = He's been *hinting at* a mayoral run. ▪ The history textbook only *hinted at* the racial prejudice of that era. ▪ What is she *hinting at*?

hin•ter•land /'hɪntəˌlænd/ *noun, pl* **-lands** [*count*] : an area that is not close to any cities or towns : a remote region ▪ a/the rural *hinterland* ✧ *Hinterland* is usually singular in British English but is often plural in U.S. English. ▪ She had grown up in the city and knew nothing of life in the *hinterlands*.

¹hip /'hɪp/ *noun, pl* **hips** [*count*] : the part of your body between your waist and legs on each side ▪ She stood with her hands on her *hips*. — see picture at HUMAN

joined at the hip *informal* — used to describe two people who are often or usually together ▪ She and her sister used to be *joined at the hip* [=*inseparable*] when they were kids.

shoot from the hip see ¹SHOOT

– compare ²HIP

– **hipped** /'hɪpt/ *adj* ▪ a wide-*hipped* woman [=a woman with wide hips]

²hip *noun, pl* **hips** [*count*] : ROSE HIP — compare ¹HIP

³hip *adj* **hip•per**; **hip•pest** [*also more ~; most ~*] *informal*

1 : knowing about and following the newest styles, fashions, etc. ▪ He tried to learn about the latest bands so he could impress his *hip* new college friends.

2 : very popular or fashionable ▪ She knows how to get into all of the *hippest* clubs and restaurants.

hip to *informal* : aware of (something) ▪ He's *hip to* what's going on in the jazz world.

– **hip•ness** /'hɪpnəs/ *noun* [*noncount*]

⁴hip *interj* — used in a cheer ▪ *Hip, hip*, hooray!

hip bone *noun, pl* ~ **bones** [*count*] : the large bone between your waist and your legs that has sides that spread outward to form the hips — see picture at HUMAN

hip flask *noun, pl* ~ **flasks** [*count*] : FLASK 1

hip–hop /'hɪpˌhɑ:p/ *noun* [*noncount*] : rap music ▪ I listen to *hip-hop* and reggae. ▪ a *hip-hop* artist; *also* : the culture associated with rap music

hip•pie *also* **hip•py** /'hɪpi/ *noun, pl* **-pies** [*count*] : a usually young person who rejects established social customs (such as by dressing in an unusual way or living in a commune) and who opposes violence and war; *especially* : a young person of this kind in the 1960s and 1970s ▪ longhaired *hippies* ▪ draft-dodging *hippies* ▪ She used to be a *hippie*, but she's fairly conservative now. ▪ an old/aging *hippie* [=an old person who still lives like the hippies of the 1960s and 1970s] ▪ The band appeals to a new generation of *hippies*. — often used before another noun ▪ the *hippie* generation/movement ▪ my *hippie* days [=the time when I was a hippie]

hip•po /'hɪpoʊ/ *noun, pl* **-pos** [*count*] *somewhat informal* : HIPPOPOTAMUS

hip•po•pot•a•mus /ˌhɪpə'pɑ:təməs/ *noun, pl* **-mus•es** *or* **-mi** /-ˌmaɪ/ [*count*] : a large African animal that has an extremely large head and mouth and short legs and that spends most of its time in water

hip•ster /'hɪpstɚ/ *noun, pl* **-sters** [*count*] *informal* : a person who follows the latest styles, fashions, etc. : a hip person ▪ a movie that appeals equally to *hipsters* and suburbanites

¹hire /'hajɚ/ *verb* **hires**; **hired**; **hir•ing**

1 a *chiefly US* : to give work or a job to (someone) in exchange for wages or a salary [+ *obj*] She had very little office experience, so the company wouldn't *hire* her. ▪ a *hired* hand/worker ▪ We *hired* someone to clean the office once a week. [*no obj*] The company isn't *hiring* right now. **b** [+ *obj*] : to use or get the services of (someone) to do a particular job ▪ You should *hire* [=(more formally) *employ*] a lawyer to look over the contract.

2 [+ *obj*] *chiefly Brit* : to pay to use (something) : RENT ▪ *hire* a hall ▪ a *hired* car

hire out [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***hire out (something) or hire (something) out*** *chiefly Brit* : to allow someone to use (something) in exchange for money ▪ The hotel *hires out* [=*rents out*] boats to guests. **2** ***hire out or hire (yourself) out*** *US, informal* : to take a job : to work for wages or a salary ▪ She *hired out* as a cook. ▪ He's a teacher most of the year, but in the summer he *hires himself out* as a tour guide.

– **hiring** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ Who's in charge of the *hiring* and firing of the office staff? ▪ the company's *hiring* practices

²hire *noun, pl* **hires**

1 [*count*] *US, informal* : someone who has been hired for a job ▪ The company has a few new *hires*.

2 [*noncount*] *Brit* : RENTAL ▪ The *hire* of a car and other equipment will of course incur a supplementary charge. ▪ a car-*hire* firm — often used before another noun ▪ a *hire* car [=a car that is or can be rented; a rental car]

for hire **1 a** : available to be used in exchange for money ▪ They have boats (available) *for hire*. [=*for rent*] **b** : available to do work in exchange for money ▪ Several people in the neighborhood responded to the "gardener *for hire*" signs she posted. **2** : in exchange for money ▪ He says he'll do farm work *for hire*.

on hire *chiefly Brit* : kept to be used by people in exchange for money ▪ The boats are *on hire* to the guests from the management.

hired gun *noun, pl* ~ **guns** [*count*] *chiefly US*

1 : a person who is paid to kill someone

2 : a person who is hired to do a specific job and especially one that some people consider to be morally wrong ▪ business executives and the *hired guns* they pay to polish their images

hire•ling /'hajɚlɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-lings** [*count*] *disapproving* : a person who is paid for doing a job that is not respected or that is considered morally wrong ▪ She's one of the political *hirelings* who run the candidate's campaign.

hire purchase *noun* [*noncount*] *Brit* : INSTALLMENT PLAN ▪ They bought the furniture on *hire purchase*.

hir•sute /'hɚˌsu:t, *Brit* 'hə:ˌsju:t/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal* + *often humorous* : having a lot of hair especially on the face or body : HAIRY ▪ his *hirsute* chest

¹his /'hɪz, ɪz/ *adj, always used before a noun, possessive form of* HE

1 : relating to or belonging to a certain man, boy, or male animal ▪ He bought *his* own house. ▪ *His* house is out in the country. ▪ What is *his* name? ▪ He sat quietly at *his* desk.

: made or done by a certain man, boy, or male animal ▪ I would like to read some of *his* essays. ▪ He was jailed for three years for *his* crime. ▪ It's *his* turn to play.

2 — used to refer to a person of either sex in general statements or when the sex of the person is unknown ▪ Each student should do *his* own work. [=each student should do his or her own work; all students should do their own work] ✧ This use of *his* was common in the past but is now often avoided because it is considered sexist.

²his /'hɪz/ *pronoun*

1 : that which belongs to or is connected with him : his one : his ones ▪ The book is *his*. [=the book belongs to him; it is his book] ▪ My eyes are blue and *his* are brown. ▪ The red car is mine; *his* is the green one. ▪ Are you a friend ***of his***? [=are you his friend?] ▪ That face *of his* [=his face] is hard to forget.

2 *Brit, informal* : his home ▪ Let's go back to *his* [=*his place*] after the show.

His•pan•ic /hɪ'spænɪk/ *adj* : coming originally from an area where Spanish is spoken and especially from Latin America ▪ *Hispanic* people; *also* : of or relating to Hispanic people ▪ *Hispanic* culture

– **Hispanic** *noun, pl* **-ics** [*count*]

¹hiss /'hɪs/ *noun, pl* **hiss•es** [*count*] : a sound like a long "s" ▪ The air escaped from the balloon with a *hiss*. ▪ the *hiss* of a snake ▪ the boos and *hisses* of the audience

²hiss *verb* **hisses**; **hissed**; **hiss•ing**

1 [*no obj*] : to produce a sound like a long "s" : to make a hiss ▪ The radiator *hissed* as it let off steam. ▪ a *hissing* noise

2 : to show that you dislike or disapprove of someone (such as a performer or speaker) by making a hiss [*no obj*] The audience booed and *hissed* (at him) when he came on stage. [+ *obj*] The audience *hissed* him off the stage.

3 [+ *obj*] : to say (something) in a loud or angry whisper ▪ "Leave me alone!" he *hissed*.

hissy fit /'hɪsi-/ *noun, pl* ~ **fits** [*count*] *informal* : an uncon-

trolled expression of strong emotion : FIT • She threw/had a *hissy fit* [=she became very angry and upset] when I told her she couldn't go.

his•ta•mine /ˈhɪstəˌmi:n/ *noun, pl* **-mines** [*count*] *medical* : a chemical substance in the body that causes the symptoms that people experience when they are allergic to something — compare ANTIHISTAMINE

his•to•ri•an /hɪˈstorijən/ *noun, pl* **-ans** [*count*] : a person who studies or writes about history • a military *historian*

his•tor•ic /hɪˈstorɪk/ *adj*

1 a [*more ~; most ~*] : famous or important in history • a/an *historic* event • *historic* landmarks **b** [*more ~; most ~*] : having great and lasting importance • It's wonderful to see so many people here on this *historic* occasion. • She returned safely from her *historic* flight into space. • The court made a *historic* decision last week. **c** : happening or existing in the past • *historic* interest rates • They know of many *historic* volcanic eruptions in the area. **d** : considered in comparison with the past • Unemployment is at a *historic* low. [=an all-time low; the rate of unemployment is lower than it has ever been]

2 : of or relating to history or the past : HISTORICAL • the *historic* importance of the river • *historic* artifacts/relics

his•tor•i•cal /hɪˈstorɪkəl/ *adj*

1 : of or relating to history • He strove for *historical* accuracy in the movie. • *historical* research/facts • a ***historical museum*** [=a museum that shows objects relating to the history of a place] • a ***historical society*** [=a group of people who work to preserve the history of a place]

2 : based on history • a/an *historical* novel [=a novel that tells a story about events and people in the past] • *historical* fiction

3 : arranged in the order that things happened or came to be : CHRONOLOGICAL • The kings are listed in *historical* order.

– his•tor•i•cal•ly /hɪˈstorɪkli/ *adv* • The movie is not *historically* accurate. • *historically* significant events • *Historically* [=*in the past*], the school has had a strong sports program.

his•to•ry /ˈhɪstəri/ *noun, pl* **-ries**

1 [*noncount*] : the study of past events • I studied *history* in college. • a professor of medieval/American *history* — see also NATURAL HISTORY

2 [*noncount*] **a** : events of the past • They were one of the greatest teams in *history*. • the dawn of recorded *history* [=the beginning of the time when important events in the past were written down] • These problems have occurred throughout (human) *history*. • It was one of the most destructive storms in modern/recent *history*. • It was a period in American *history* when most people lived and worked on farms. • Her discoveries have earned her a place in *history*. [=she will be remembered in the future because of her discoveries] • How will *history* judge the policies of the current administration? [=how will the policies be regarded in the future?] • ***History has shown*** that such attempts have always failed. [=such attempts have always failed in the past] • They believe that they will succeed because ***history is on their side*** [=because other people have succeeded in the past in similar situations] • You can't ***rewrite history***. [=you can't change what has happened in the past] • A talent scout spotted her behind the counter at a soda fountain and ***the rest is history***. [=the rest of the story about her success is well-known] • They won the championship last year. Will ***history repeat itself*** this year? [=will the same thing happen again?] **b** : past events that relate to a particular subject, place, organization, etc. • He gave us a tour of the building and told us about the company's *history*. [=about how the company began and how it has developed over time] • The company has been successful throughout its *history*. [=throughout the entire time of its existence] • Nothing like this has occurred before in the company's 20-year *history*. [=in the 20 years that the company has existed] • There is quite a bit of *history* [=much has happened] in this old house. • The *history* of space exploration is a fascinating topic. • The school can ***trace its history*** back to the early 19th century. [=the school has existed since the early 19th century]

3 [*count*] : a written record of important events that have happened since the beginning of something • He wrote a well-known *history* of the British empire. • The book begins with a brief/short *history* of the Internet.

4 [*count*] : an established record of past events, actions, etc. — usually singular • The patient has no (prior) *history* of heart problems. [=she has not had heart problems in the past] • The prisoner has a *history* of violence. [=the prisoner has been violent in the past] • a patient's ***medical history*** [=a record of past medical problems and treatments] • a worker's ***employment history*** [=a record of jobs that a worker has had] • It's hard to buy a car if you don't have any ***credit history***. [=if you have not borrowed and repaid money in the past] • They have a ***family history*** of heart disease. [=many people in their family have suffered from heart disease in the past]

5 [*noncount*] *informal* : someone or something that is finished • Their winning streak was *history*. [=their winning streak was finished/over] • His boss told him that if he was late one more time, he would be *history*. [=he would be fired]

ancient history see ANCIENT

go down in history : to be remembered as a very important person or event • The discovery of the structure of DNA will *go down in history*.

make history : to do something that is very important or famous and that will be remembered as part of history • They *made history* by discovering the structure of DNA.

his•tri•on•ic /ˌhɪstriˈɑ:nɪk/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *disapproving* : too emotional or dramatic • *histrionic* behavior/gestures

– his•tri•on•i•cal•ly /ˌhɪstriˈɑ:nɪkli/ *adv*

his•tri•on•ics /ˌhɪstriˈɑ:nɪks/ *noun* [*plural*] *disapproving* : behavior that is too emotional or dramatic : histrionic behavior • a tennis player known for his *histrionics* on the court • He told the story simply, without any *histrionics*.

[1]hit /ˈhɪt/ *verb* **hits; hit; hit•ting**

1 a : to move your hand, a bat, etc., quickly so that it touches someone or something in a forceful or violent way [+ *obj*] She told her son to stop *hitting* his sister. • She *hit* him hard with her purse. • He *hit* the fence with a stick. = He *hit* a stick against/on the fence. • The boxers *hit* each other with their fists. [*no obj*] The boxers were *hitting* furiously at each other. **b** [+ *obj*] : to cause (something, such as a ball) to move by hitting it forcefully with a bat, racket, etc. • He *hit* a fastball (over the fence) for a home run. • She *hit* the ball right to the shortstop. **c** : to touch (something or someone) in a forceful or violent way after moving at a high speed [+ *obj*] The ball *hit* the house. • The plate shattered when it *hit* the floor. • The tank was *hit* by enemy fire. • He was *hit* by a car. • The ship *hit* an iceberg. [*no obj*] The plate shattered when it *hit*. **d** [+ *obj*] : to cause or allow (something, such as part of your body) to touch something in a forceful or violent way • I accidentally *hit* my head on/against the side of the door while I was getting into the car. • She *hit* her elbow on the edge of the table.

2 a [+ *obj*] : to attack (something or someone) • Our plan is to *hit* the enemy before they can *hit* us. **b** : to affect (something or someone) in a harmful or damaging way [+ *obj*] The ship was *hit* by a sudden storm. • A powerful earthquake *hit* the city. • Many families have been ***hit hard*** by the layoffs. = Many families have been ***hard hit*** by the layoffs. [=many families have been badly affected/hurt by the layoffs] • If you really want to teach your son a lesson you should ***hit him where it hurts*** and take away his cell phone. [*no obj*] Many people were unprepared when the storm *hit*. • The layoffs have *hit hard* here.

3 [+ *obj*] **a** : to come to (something) by chance or accident while you are moving • We *hit* a west wind coming out of port. • I was late because I *hit* a traffic jam on the way over. **b** : to begin to have or experience (problems, trouble, etc.) • The project went smoothly at first, but then we started to *hit* [=*encounter*] some problems.

4 [+ *obj*] *informal* : to become suddenly or completely clear to (someone) : STRIKE • It suddenly *hit* [=*occurred to*] me that I was doing something wrong. [=I suddenly realized that I was doing something wrong] • The importance of the victory hasn't really *hit* her yet. • I was just about to give up when the solution *hit* me. • When you meet him, the first thing that *hits* you [=the first thing that you notice] is his air of confidence. • The smell *hit* me [=I noticed the smell] as soon as I opened the door.

5 [+ *obj*] : to get or come to (a goal, level, etc.) : REACH • He *hit* 100 mph on his motorcycle. • They expect the temperature to *hit* 90 this afternoon. • Sales *hit* $100 million last year alone. • Gold prices *hit* an all-time high last week. • a singer who can *hit* the high notes • He kept digging until he *hit* [=*struck*] water. • The stock market ***hit bottom*** [=reached an extremely low point] • (*informal*) Next year he'll ***hit the big four-oh/five-oh*** [=turn 40/50 years of age]

6 [+ *obj*] *informal* : to arrive or appear at, in, or on (a place) • We *hit* [=went to] the beach nearly every day this summer. • They got up early and headed out to *hit* the (ski) slopes. [=to go skiing] • The magazine's new issue *hits* newsstands tomor-

row. [=the new issue becomes available on newsstands tomorrow] ▪ The new product should *hit* the shelves/market soon. = The new product should *hit* stores soon. [=the new product should be available in stores soon] ▪ These new illegal drugs only recently ***hit the street*** [=became available for illegal purchase]

7 [+ *obj*] *informal* **a** : to turn (something) on or off with a switch ▪ Could someone please ***hit the lights***? **b** : to move (a switch) to an on or off position ▪ The lights came on when she ***hit the switch*** **c** : to push down on (the brake pedal or accelerator in a vehicle) in a sudden and forceful way ▪ I had to ***hit the brakes*** hard to avoid an accident. ▪ She suddenly *hit* the accelerator and sped away. = (*US*) She suddenly ***hit the gas*** and sped away.

8 a : to succeed in hitting (something aimed at) with a shot, throw, etc. [+ *obj*] *hit* the bull's-eye ▪ *hit* the target — sometimes used figuratively ▪ Her criticism really ***hit the mark*** [=her criticism was very accurate] [*no obj*] The first shot *hit* but the second shot missed. **b** [+ *obj*] : to succeed in making (a shot) ▪ She *hit* [=*made, sank*] 40 percent of her shots last season. ▪ She *hit* her first basket but then missed the next one. **c** [+ *obj*] : to succeed in making a pass to (another player) ▪ The quarterback *hit* the wide receiver (with a pass) for a touchdown.

9 a [*no obj*] : to try to hit the ball with a bat in baseball, cricket, or a similar game ▪ It's your turn to *hit*. [=*bat*] **b** [+ *obj*] : to produce (a home run, a ground ball, etc.) by batting ▪ He *hit* 30 home runs last year. ▪ He *hit* a ground ball to the shortstop. ▪ She *hit* a double to left field. **c** [*no obj*] : to have a specified batting average ▪ This year he's *hitting* [=*batting*] .300. [=his batting average is .300] **d** : to hit the pitches thrown by (a pitcher) [+ *obj*] He has *hit* this pitcher well/poorly in the past. [*no obj*] He has *hit* well/poorly against this pitcher in the past.

10 *not used in progressive tenses* [+ *obj*] *informal* : to deal another card to (a player in blackjack) ▪ *Hit* me. [=deal another card to me]

hit a nerve see NERVE

hit a/the wall see ¹WALL

hit back [*phrasal verb*] : to attack or criticize someone who has attacked or criticized you ▪ If you hit me, I'll *hit back*. ▪ The team *hit back* with a touchdown of their own. — often + *at* ▪ The Senator *hit back at* his critics.

hit home see ²HOME

hit it *informal* — used to tell a group of musicians to begin playing ▪ *Hit it*, boys! [=let's begin playing music]

hit it big *or* ***hit big*** see BIG

hit it off *informal* : to become friends : to get along well ▪ The two of them *hit it off* (with each other) immediately. ▪ Though we work together, we've never really *hit it off*.

hit on/upon [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***hit on (someone)*** *US, informal* : to talk to (someone) in order to try to start a sexual relationship ▪ She's always being/getting *hit on* at the gym. ▪ Some drunk at the bar was *hitting on* her. **2** ***hit on/upon (something)*** : to succeed in finding (something, such as a solution) ▪ She thought about the problem for days before she finally *hit on* a solution. ▪ He *hit on* a new way to do things. ▪ We *hit upon* the answer accidentally.

hit out at [*phrasal verb*] ***hit out at (someone)*** *informal* : to make an angry attack against (someone) ▪ The singer *hit out at* [=(more commonly) *lashed out at*] her critics.

hit someone for six see SIX

hit the books see ¹BOOK

hit the buffers see ¹BUFFER

hit the deck *or* ***hit the dirt*** *or* ***hit the ground*** : to drop down to the ground or floor suddenly ▪ She *hit the deck* when the gunfire started.

hit the fan see ¹FAN

hit the ground running : to begin an effort or activity in a quick, energetic, and effective way ▪ The new administration *hit the ground running* after the inauguration.

hit the hay *or* ***hit the sack*** *informal* : to go to bed ▪ I'm tired. I'm going to *hit the hay*.

hit the jackpot see JACKPOT

hit the nail on the head *informal* : to be exactly right ▪ He *hit the nail on the head* with that analysis.

hit the panic button see PANIC BUTTON

hit the road see ROAD

hit the roof *or* ***hit the ceiling*** *informal* : to become very angry or upset ▪ His parents really *hit the roof* when they found out he had flunked out of school.

hit the skids see ²SKID

hit the spot see ¹SPOT

hit the streets *or US* ***hit the pavement*** *informal* : to go out in search of something or for a specific purpose ▪ I grabbed the classifieds and *hit the pavement*, looking for a new job. ▪ The reporters *hit the streets* to interview passersby. — see also ¹HIT 6 (above)

hit the town see TOWN

hit the trail see ²TRAIL

hit up [*phrasal verb*] ***hit (someone) up*** *or* ***hit up (someone)*** *US, informal* : to ask (someone) *for* something (such as money) ▪ She's waiting for the right moment to *hit up* her father *for* a loan. [=to ask her father for a loan] ▪ I donated money to that charity a few months ago, and they're already *hitting* me *up for* more.

hit your stride see ²STRIDE

know what hit you see ¹KNOW

²hit *noun, pl* **hits** [*count*]

1 a : an act of hitting someone or something ▪ The player was penalized for an illegal *hit* from behind. ▪ The torpedo made a direct *hit*. **b** — used to describe being hit by something (such as a bullet, bomb, punch, etc.); usually used with *take* ▪ The bunker *took* a direct *hit* from the bombers. ▪ The plane *took* some *hits*, but the pilot was able to fly back to the base. — often used figuratively ▪ His pride *took* a *hit*. [=his pride was hurt] ▪ The company *took a* public relations *hit* when it lost the lawsuit. [=the company's public image was damaged when it lost the lawsuit] ▪ She *took* a big financial *hit* when the stock market fell. [=she lost a lot of money]

2 a : something that is very successful ▪ The show was a (smash/big) *hit*. ▪ The album is a collection of the group's greatest *hits*. [=the group's most popular and successful songs] — often used before another noun ▪ a *hit* record/song ▪ a *hit* movie — see also ONE-HIT WONDER **b** : someone or something that is liked by someone very much ▪ The pony ride was/made a big *hit* at the party. — usually + *with* ▪ The pony ride was a big *hit with* the kids at the party. [=the kids at the party enjoyed the pony ride very much]

3 : a successful effort to reach a desired goal or result ▪ His business ventures have been a mixture of *hits* and misses. [=some of his business ventures have been successful and some have failed]

4 *baseball* : BASE HIT ▪ He got/had two *hits* in last night's game.

5 *computers* **a** : an act of connecting to a particular Web site ▪ The site had/got over a million *hits* last month. [=people connected to the site more than a million times last month] **b** : a successful attempt to find something in a search of a computer database or the Internet ▪ A search for his name in the newspaper's database produced/found more than 30 *hits*.

6 *informal* : a single dose of an illegal drug ▪ Can I get a *hit*? ▪ He ***took a hit*** of LSD.

7 *informal* : a planned murder done by a paid killer ▪ an attempted *hit* on the gang's leader — see also HIT MAN

– hit·less /ˈhɪtləs/ *adj* ▪ a *hitless* musical group [=a musical group that has not had any hit songs] ▪ She has gone/been *hitless* [=has not had any base hits] in her last three games. ▪ He pitched six *hitless* innings. [=six innings in which no batter got a base hit]

hit–and–miss /ˌhɪtn̩ˈmɪs/ *adj* : sometimes successful and sometimes not : not always good or successful ▪ The company has relied on a *hit-and-miss* [=*hit-or-miss*] approach to developing new products.

¹hit–and–run /ˌhɪtn̩ˈrʌn/ *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : involving a driver who does not stop after causing an accident ▪ a *hit-and-run* accident ▪ Police are looking for an unidentified *hit-and-run* driver.

2 : involving quick action by someone who then leaves or runs away quickly ▪ *hit-and-run* raids along the border

²hit–and–run *noun, pl* **-runs** [*count*] *baseball* : a play in which a base runner begins running as soon as a pitch is thrown and the batter tries to hit the pitch — often used before another noun ▪ a *hit-and-run* play

¹hitch /ˈhɪtʃ/ *verb* **hitch·es; hitched; hitch·ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to attach, fasten, or connect (something) with a hook, knot, etc. ▪ *hitch* a trailer to a car ▪ He *hitched* his horse to a post outside the saloon. = He tied his horse to a ***hitching post*** outside the saloon.

2 *informal* : HITCHHIKE [*no obj*] He *hitched* across the country last summer. [+ *obj*] He *hitched* his way across the country last summer.

get hitched *informal* : to get married ▪ He's *getting hitched* to his college sweetheart.

hitch a ride *or chiefly Brit* ***hitch a lift*** *informal* : to get a ride

in a passing vehicle ▪ Her car broke down, so she had to *hitch a ride/lift* with a passing truck.

hitch up [*phrasal verb*] ***hitch (something) up*** *or* ***hitch up (something)*** : to pull (a piece of clothing) up with a quick movement ▪ She *hitched* her skirt *up* above her knees.

hitch your wagon to (someone or something) see WAGON

²hitch *noun, pl* **hitches** [*count*]

1 : a hidden problem that makes something more complicated or difficult to do ▪ It sounded like a good plan, but there was just one *hitch*. [=*catch*] ▪ The plan ***went off without a hitch***.

2 : a device that is used to connect one thing (such as a plow or trailer) to another (such as a tractor, car, or animal) ▪ a trailer *hitch*

3 *US, informal* : a period of service in the military, at a job, etc. ▪ He went back to college after doing his *hitch* in the army. ▪ a seven-year *hitch* at the newspaper

4 : a type of simple knot that is used to hold or fasten something for a short time

hitch•hike /ˈhɪʧˌhaɪk/ *verb* **-hikes**; **-hiked**; **-hik•ing** : to get a ride in a passing vehicle by holding out your arm with your thumb up as you stand on the side of the road [*no obj*] Her car broke down, so she had to *hitchhike* back home. [+ *obj*] He *hitchhiked* his way across the country last summer.
– **hitch•hik•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

hi–tech *variant spelling of* HIGH TECH

hith•er /ˈhɪðɚ/ *adv, old-fashioned + literary* : to this place ▪ come *hither* [=come here] ▪ She has been very busy, traveling ***hither and yon***. [=here and there; traveling to many different places] ▪ traveling/wandering ***hither and thither*** [=here and there] — see also COME-HITHER

hith•er•to /ˈhɪðɚˌtu:/ *adv, formal* : until now : before this time ▪ The biography reveals some *hitherto* [=*formerly, previously*] unknown facts about his early life.

hit list *noun, pl* ~ **lists** [*count*] : a list of people, organizations, etc., that a person or group plans to oppose or eliminate ▪ the gunman's *hit list* ▪ Excess spending is at the top of the governor's *hit list*. [=it is the first thing the governor plans to eliminate]

hit man *noun, pl* ~ **men** [*count*] : a person who is paid to kill someone ▪ She hired a *hit man* to kill her ex-husband. ▪ Mafia *hit men*

hit–or–miss /ˌhɪtɚˈmɪs/ *adj* : not carefully planned or directed ▪ a *hit-or-miss* [=*hit-and-miss*] method of finding answers ▪ a *hit-or-miss* procedure/proposition

hit•ter /ˈhɪtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*] : a person who hits someone or something; *especially, baseball* : a player who is trying to hit the ball ▪ The pitcher walked the first *hitter*. [=*batter*] ▪ He's a good fielder but a poor *hitter*. — see also DESIGNATED HITTER, HEAVY HITTER, PINCH HITTER

HIV /ˌeɪʧˌaɪˈvi:/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medicine* : a virus that causes AIDS ▪ The patient is ***HIV positive/negative***. ✧ *HIV* is an abbreviation of "human immunodeficiency virus."

¹hive /ˈhaɪv/ *noun, pl* **hives** [*count*]

1 a : a nest for bees — called also *beehive* **b** : the bees living in a hive

2 : a place filled with busy activity ▪ The house was a ***hive of activity*** as we prepared for the party.

²hive *verb* **hives**; **hived**; **hiv•ing**

hive off [*phrasal verb*] *chiefly Brit* **1 a** : to separate from a group ▪ The youngest campers *hived off* into another room. **b** ***hive off (someone or something)*** *or* ***hive (someone or something) off*** : to separate (someone or something) from a group ▪ They *hived off* the youngest campers into another room. **2** ***hive off (something)*** *or* ***hive (something) off*** : to give control of (something) to another person or group ▪ The new owners *hived off* the best parts of the company to another part of their corporate empire.

hives /ˈhaɪvz/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medicine* : a condition in which an area of your skin becomes red and itchy ▪ I broke out in *hives* after being stung by the bee.

hi•ya /ˈhajə/ *interj, informal* : HI ▪ "*Hiya*, sweetheart."

HM *abbr* Her Majesty, Her Majesty's, His Majesty, His Majesty's

hmm *also* **hm** /ˈm̩, ˈhm̩/ *interj* — used to represent a sound made by someone who is thinking about what to say or do ▪ I thought to myself, *hmm*, what's the best way to take advantage of this opportunity?

HMO /ˌeɪʧˌɛmˈoʊ/ *noun, pl* **HMOs** [*count*] *US* : an organization that provides health care to people who make regular payments to it and who agree to use the doctors, hospitals, etc., that belong to the organization ✧ *HMO* is an abbreviation of "health maintenance organization." — compare PPO

HMS *abbr* Her Majesty's ship; His Majesty's ship

¹ho /ˈhoʊ/ *interj*

1 — used to attract attention ▪ "Land *ho*!" [=I see land]

2 ***ho ho*** *or* ***ho ho ho*** — used to represent laughter ▪ *Ho ho ho*! Merry Christmas! — often used in an ironic way ▪ *Ho ho*. That's very funny. [=that's not really funny at all]

²ho *noun, pl* **hos** *or* **hoes** *also* **ho's** [*count*] *US slang, offensive* : WHORE

hoa•gie /ˈhoʊgi/ *noun, pl* **-gies** [*count*] *US* : SUBMARINE SANDWICH ▪ She had a meatball *hoagie* for lunch.

¹hoard /ˈhoɚd/ *noun, pl* **hoards** [*count*] : a large amount of something valuable that is kept hidden ▪ a *hoard* of jewels ▪ a squirrel's *hoard* of nuts

> Do not confuse *hoard* with *horde*.

²hoard *verb* **hoards**; **hoard•ed**; **hoard•ing** [+ *obj*] : to collect and hide a large amount of (something valuable) ▪ *hoarding* money/food
– **hoard•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

hoarding /ˈhoɚdɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-ings** [*count*] *Brit* : BILLBOARD

hoarse /ˈhoɚs/ *adj* **hoars•er**; **-est** : having a harsh or rough sound or voice ▪ She could only speak in a *hoarse* whisper. ▪ The cold made me a little *hoarse*. — see also *shout yourself hoarse* at ¹SHOUT
– **hoarse•ly** *adv* – **hoarse•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

hoary /ˈhori/ *adj* **hoar•i•er**; **-est**

1 a : very old ▪ *hoary* [=*ancient*] legends ▪ a *hoary* tale of revenge **b** : not interesting, funny, etc., because of being used too often : not fresh or original ▪ a *hoary* cliché/joke

2 *literary* : having gray or white hair ▪ He bowed his *hoary* head. ▪ a man *hoary* with age

¹hoax /ˈhoʊks/ *noun, pl* **hoax•es** [*count*] : an act that is meant to trick or deceive people ▪ The bomb threat is probably a *hoax*, but we should still evacuate the building. ▪ She was the victim of a cruel *hoax*.

²hoax *verb* **hoaxes**; **hoaxed**; **hoax•ing** [+ *obj*] : to trick or deceive (someone) — usually used as *(be) hoaxed* ▪ People *were hoaxed* by the Web site.
– **hoax•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

hob /ˈhɑ:b/ *noun, pl* **hobs** [*count*] *Brit* : COOKTOP

hob•ble /ˈhɑ:bəl/ *verb* **hob•bles**; **hob•bled**; **hob•bling**

1 [*no obj*] : to walk with difficulty because of injury or weakness ▪ She picked up her cane and *hobbled* across the room.

2 [+ *obj*] : to slow the movement, progress, or action of (someone or something) ▪ Critics say that his policies will *hobble* [=*hamper*] economic growth. ▪ She is sometimes *hobbled* by self-doubt. ▪ He has been *hobbled* by a knee injury.

3 [+ *obj*] : to keep (an animal) from straying or wandering by tying two legs together ▪ *hobble* a horse

hob•by /ˈhɑ:bi/ *noun, pl* **-bies** [*count*] : an activity that a person does for pleasure when not working ▪ She collects stamps as a *hobby*. ▪ He has many *hobbies*, including photography and gardening.
– **hob•by•ist** /ˈhɑ:bijɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] ▪ The camera is perfect for professionals as well as *hobbyists*.

hob•by•horse /ˈhɑ:biˌhoɚs/ *noun, pl* **-hors•es** [*count*]

1 : a subject that someone speaks about or complains about often ▪ Once he ***gets on his hobbyhorse*** and starts talking about taxes, you can't get him to discuss anything else. ▪ She's been ***riding that hobbyhorse*** for months.

2 : a stick with a horse's head at one end that a child pretends to ride

hob•gob•lin /ˈhɑ:bˌgɑ:blən/ *noun, pl* **-lins** [*count*]

1 : an ugly or evil creature that plays tricks in children's stories

2 : something that causes fear or worry ▪ intimidated by the *hobgoblins* of etiquette

hob•nail boot /ˈhɑ:bˌneɪl-/ *or* **hob•nailed boot** /ˈhɑ:bˌneɪld-/ *noun, pl* ~ **boots** [*count*] : a heavy boot with short nails driven into the bottom to protect against wear

hob•nob /ˈhɑ:bˌnɑ:b/ *verb* **-nobs**; **-nobbed**; **-nob•bing** [*no obj*] : to spend time with someone (such as a famous or wealthy person) in a friendly way ▪ He loves to *hobnob* with celebrities.

ho•bo /ˈhoʊboʊ/ *noun, pl* **-boes** *also* **-bos** [*count*] *US* : a person who has no place to live and no money and who trav-

els to many different places ▪ an old *hobo* [=*tramp*] riding on a freight train

Hob•son's choice /ˈhɑːbsənz-/ *noun, pl* ~ **choices** [*count*] : a situation in which you are supposed to make a choice but do not have a real choice because there is only one thing you can have or do ▪ He jokingly referred to dinner as a *Hobson's choice* between soup and salad or salad and soup.

[1]hock /ˈhɑːk/ *noun, pl* **hocks** [*count*]
1 : a small piece of meat from the leg of a pig ▪ ham *hocks*
2 : the part of the rear leg of a four-footed animal (such as a horse) that is like the human ankle — see picture at HORSE
– compare [2]HOCK, [4]HOCK

[2]hock *noun* [*noncount*] *informal*
1 : the state of being in the possession of a pawnbroker ✧ An item that is ***in hock*** has been exchanged for money in an arrangement with a pawnbroker. If the money is returned, the item will be returned, or else the pawnbroker may sell it to someone else. When the item is returned it is ***out of hock***. ▪ His gold watch is *in hock*. ▪ She got her earrings *out of hock*.
2 : the state of owing money to someone or something : DEBT ▪ He is ***in hock*** to his boss for several thousand dollars. [=he owes his boss several thousand dollars] ▪ She had to go ***into hock*** to pay for her college tuition. ▪ He's trying to get ***out of hock***.
– compare [1]HOCK, [4]HOCK

[3]hock *verb* **hocks**; **hocked**; **hock•ing** [+ *obj*] : to give (something that you own) to a pawnbroker in exchange for money : to put (something) in hock ▪ He *hocked* [=*pawned*] his gold watch to help pay for his medical bills.

[4]hock *noun, pl* **hocks** [*count, noncount*] *Brit* : a type of German white wine — compare [1]HOCK, [2]HOCK

hock•ey /ˈhɑːki/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 *chiefly US* : ICE HOCKEY
2 *chiefly Brit* : FIELD HOCKEY

hockey skate *noun, pl* ~ **skates** [*count*] : a special skate used for ice hockey — see picture at SKATE

ho•cus–po•cus /ˌhoʊkəsˈpoʊkəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] : language or activity that is meant to trick or confuse people ▪ He misled voters with his political *hocus-pocus*.

hodge•podge /ˈhɑːdʒˌpɑːdʒ/ *noun* [*singular*] *chiefly US* : a mixture of different things ▪ a *hodgepodge* of styles — called also (*Brit*) *hotchpotch*

[1]hoe /ˈhoʊ/ *noun, pl* **hoes** [*count*] : a garden tool that has a flat blade on a long handle — see picture at GARDENING

[2]hoe *verb* **hoes**; **hoed**; **hoe•ing** : to work on (something, such as a garden or a crop) with a hoe [+ *obj*] The garden has to be *hoed*. [*no obj*] She was *hoeing* in the garden all day.

hoe•down /ˈhoʊˌdaʊn/ *noun, pl* **-downs** [*count*] *US* : an informal country party where people do square dances

[1]hog /ˈhɑːg/ *noun, pl* **hogs** *also* **hog** [*count*]
1 a *chiefly US* : a pig ▪ a *hog* farmer **b** *Brit* : a male pig that has had its sex organs removed and that is raised for meat
2 *informal* **a** : a selfish or greedy person ▪ Don't be such a *hog*! Other people have to eat too! — see also ROAD HOG **b** : something that takes or uses a large amount or too much of something ▪ This car is a gas *hog*. [=it uses a lot of gasoline] ▪ The new software is a real memory *hog*.
go hog wild *US, informal* : to do something in an extreme or excessive way : to go wild ▪ They *went hog wild* with special effects in this movie.
go (the) whole hog *informal* : to do something in a very thorough and complete way ▪ If we're going to have a party, we might as well *go the whole hog* and hire a band.
high off/on the hog see [2]HIGH

[2]hog *verb* **hogs**; **hogged**; **hog•ging** [+ *obj*] *informal* : to take, keep, or use (something) in a way that prevents other people or things from having or using it ▪ He's been *hogging* the remote control all night. ▪ Stop *hogging* the road. [=stop driving in a way that does not allow room for other cars to pass] ▪ I hate when she *hogs* the bathroom. [=she stays in the bathroom for a long time when other people want to use it]

hog heaven *noun* [*noncount*] *US, informal* : a very pleasing or satisfying state or situation ▪ We had plenty of food, good wine, and beautiful weather. We were in *hog heaven*.

hog•wash /ˈhɑːgˌwɑːʃ/ *noun* [*noncount*] *informal* : foolish or meaningless talk : NONSENSE ▪ You wouldn't believe the *hogwash* he was spouting at us. ▪ His argument is *hogwash*.

ho hum /ˈhoʊˈhʌm/ *interj* — used to show that you are bored, not interested, etc. ▪ As another election campaign gets started, most voters seem to be saying, "*Ho hum*, here we go again."

ho–hum /ˈhoʊˈhʌm/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *informal* : having or showing no excitement or enthusiasm ▪ He's been leading a very *ho-hum* [=*dull, boring*] existence. ▪ I don't see how you could be so *ho-hum* [=*indifferent*] about this movie.

hoick /ˈhoɪk/ *verb* **hoicks**; **hoicked**; **hoick•ing** [+ *obj*] *Brit, informal* : to lift or pull (something) with a quick movement : YANK ▪ He *hoicked* up his trousers and waded in.

hoi pol•loi /ˌhoɪpəˈloɪ/ *noun* [*plural*] : ordinary people : people who are not rich, famous, etc. — usually used with *the* ▪ aristocrats who treated *the hoi polloi* with contempt

[1]hoist /ˈhoɪst/ *verb* **hoists**; **hoist•ed**; **hoist•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to raise (something) especially by using ropes or machinery ▪ *hoist* the sail/flag ▪ The steel girders were *hoisted* into place and securely welded. ▪ The engine was *hoisted* out with a winch. ▪ The cargo was *hoisted* up onto the ship.
2 *chiefly US, informal* : [1]DRINK ▪ He stopped at a bar after work to *hoist* a few beers with his friends.
3 *basketball, informal* : to take (a shot) ▪ She *hoisted* a last-second shot that would have won the game if it had gone in.
hoist by/on/with your own petard see PETARD

[2]hoist *noun, pl* **hoists** [*count*] : a machine used for lifting heavy loads

hoi•ty–toi•ty /ˌhoɪtiˈtoɪti/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *chiefly US, informal* : having or showing the insulting attitude of people who think that they are better, smarter, or more important than other people ▪ a bunch of *hoity-toity* snobs

hok•ey /ˈhoʊki/ *adj* **hok•i•er**; **-est** *US, informal* + *disapproving*
1 : obviously fake : PHONY ▪ She gave us some *hokey* excuse for being late.
2 : very silly, old-fashioned, or sentimental : CORNY ▪ a *hokey* melodrama

ho•kum /ˈhoʊkəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] *informal*
1 *chiefly US* : foolish or untrue words or ideas : NONSENSE ▪ Everyone knows his story is pure *hokum*.
2 : writing, music, etc., that is too dramatic or sentimental and not very original ▪ His new film is yet another piece of Hollywood *hokum*.

[1]hold /ˈhoʊld/ *verb* **holds**; **held** /ˈhɛld/; **hold•ing**
1 [+ *obj*] **a** : to have or keep (something) in your hand, arms, etc. ▪ *Hold* the rail so you won't fall. ▪ He was *holding* his hat (in his hand). ▪ He was *holding* a large package in his arms. ▪ Would you *hold* this for me? ▪ She showed him the correct way to *hold* the racket. ▪ She *held* his hand. = She *held* him by the hand. **b** : to put your arms around (someone) : to embrace or hug (someone) ▪ Some people just don't like to be *held*. ▪ He *held* her close/tight and kissed her.
2 a [+ *obj*] : to put or keep (something or someone) in a specified place or position ▪ He *held* the pen in his mouth while he dialed the number. ▪ *Hold* the pen upright when you write. ▪ She picked up the trophy and *held* it over her head. ▪ You have to *hold* the button down for several seconds. ▪ I *held* the door open for her. ▪ *Hold* your arms at your sides. **b** [+ *obj*] : to keep (something or someone) in the same place or position ▪ I need someone to *hold* this string while I finish tying the knot. ▪ She *held* the ladder steady while he climbed up it. ▪ It took six guards to *hold* him (down). ▪ The board was *held* in place/position by a couple of nails. ▪ The Federal Reserve has been *holding* interest rates down/up. ▪ The cover was ***held on*** by a piece of tape. **c** [*no obj*] : to remain in the same place or position ▪ The anchor *held*. ▪ The line of soldiers *held* under constant attack. ▪ Please ***hold still*** for a moment. ▪ His weight has ***held steady*** for several months now.
3 [*no obj*] : to continue to be good ▪ We arrived late but our luck *held* and we were able to get tickets. ▪ We hope the weather *holds* through the weekend.
4 [+ *obj*] **a** : to own or possess (something) ▪ The bank *holds* (the) title to the car. ▪ Do you *hold* any shares/stock in the company? **b** : to have or keep (a job, a position, etc.) ▪ She has never before *held* public office. ▪ It's been a struggle for him to *hold* a job. ▪ In the last election the Democratic party managed to *hold* several seats but lost others. ▪ President Franklin Roosevelt ***held office*** for 12 years. = Franklin Roosevelt *held* the office of president for 12 years. **c** : to succeed in keeping (something that is being attacked) ▪ The troops were able to *hold* the bridge. ▪ The line of soldiers ***held their position/ground*** and fought off the attack. **d** : to have (something that you have achieved or earned) ▪ She *holds* a master's degree in chemistry. ▪ a swimmer who *holds* several world records
5 [+ *obj*] : to support the pressure or weight of (something or

someone)▪ The floor will *hold* 10 tons. ▪ I don't know if the roof can *hold* all that snow.

6 [+ *obj*] **a :** to have or keep (a belief, a feeling, etc.) in your mind ▪ There's no need for him to *hold* [=*bear*] a grudge against me. ▪ I don't *hold* any resentment toward/against him. ▪ a belief *held* by many = a widely *held* belief ▪ I will always *hold* that memory in my heart. **b** *somewhat formal* **:** to consider or judge (someone or something) in a specified way▪ They *hold* me responsible. — often + *for*▪ He should be *held* accountable *for* his actions. ▪ The store can't be *held* liable *for* damage to your vehicle. — often followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ The court *held* his actions *to be* grounds for a lawsuit. [=the court said/ruled that his actions were grounds for a lawsuit] ▪ His latest book is generally/widely *held* [=*considered*] *to be* the best one. ▪ "We *hold* these truths *to be* self-evident . . ." —U.S. Declaration of Independence (1776) **c** *not used in progressive tenses, somewhat formal* **:** to have or express (an opinion, belief, etc.) — + *that* ▪ I *hold* [=*believe*] *that* such problems should be dealt with at the federal level. ▪ The Supreme Court *held* [=*ruled*] *that* the trial court had acted properly. — sometimes used figuratively▪ Tradition *holds that* [=it is traditional that] the oldest member of the family be seated first.

7 [+ *obj*] **:** to cause (a meeting, class, sale, etc.) to take place▪ A sale will be *held* next weekend. ▪ Free elections will be *held* next month. ▪ We will *hold* [=*have*] the meeting at 2 o'clock. ▪ The President has decided to *hold* [=*give*] a press conference. ▪ They're *holding* an art show at the gallery. ▪ The two sides will *hold* [=*have*] talks/discussions to resolve the dispute.

8 [+ *obj*] **a :** to contain (something)▪ The box *holds* his collection of old photographs. **b** *not used in progressive tenses* **:** to have enough room for (an amount)▪ The disk can *hold* 1.44 megabytes of data. ▪ How much water can that bucket *hold*? ▪ The bottle *holds* two liters. ▪ The dining room *holds* 500 people.

9 [+ *obj*] **:** to continue to have (someone's interest or attention)▪ The speaker wasn't able to *hold* [=*keep*] our interest/attention for long.

10 [+ *obj*] **:** to have (a specified quality, feature, etc.)▪ His eyes *held* [=*had*] a quizzical look. ▪ She has always *held* a special place in my heart. [=I have always had special feelings for her] ▪ This hotel has long *held* [=*claimed*] a place among the world's finest. [=has long been considered one of the world's finest] — often + *for*▪ Music *holds* great appeal *for* many people. [=music appeals greatly to many people] ▪ His job *holds* no surprises *for* him. [=nothing about his job surprises him] ▪ Her paintings *hold* a real fascination *for* me. [=her paintings fascinate me] ▪ No one can know what the future *holds* (*for* us). [=no one can know what will happen (to us) in the future] ▪ These experiments *hold* great promise *for* future cancer research.

11 [+ *obj*] **:** to stop doing (something) or wait to do (something)▪ Tell the men to ***hold their fire*** [=not shoot] until I give the order. ▪ ***Hold everything*** [=wait; stop] We're not doing this right. ▪ ***Hold it*** right there. [=stop right there] Where do you think you're going?

12 [+ *obj*] **a :** to keep (something) available for later use▪ A room at the hotel will be *held* for us for 24 hours. ▪ We will *hold* these flight reservations for you until tomorrow. **b :** to delay the handling of (something, such as a telephone call) for a time▪ Please *hold* all my calls while I'm in the meeting.

13 [+ *obj*] **:** to prevent (something, such as a vehicle) from leaving▪ The train was *held* until the track was cleared. ▪ Would you *hold* the elevator for me? ▪ *Hold* that taxi!

14 [+ *obj*] *chiefly US* **:** to not use or include (something) in preparing food▪ I'd like a roast beef sandwich on rye, and *hold* the mustard please. [=do not put any mustard on the sandwich]

15 [+ *obj*] **:** to force (someone) to stay in a place (such as a prison)▪ The police are *holding* him for questioning. ▪ Terrorists are *holding* the passengers hostage. ▪ They're being *held* hostage/captive/prisoner. — sometimes used figuratively▪ He was *held* captive by his own fears.

16 [+ *obj*] **:** to continue moving on (a course) without change ▪ The ship continued to *hold* its course.

17 [+ *obj*] *of a vehicle* **:** to stay on (a road) in a safe and secure way when being driven at high speeds▪ The car *holds* the road well when turning quickly.

18 [*no obj*] **:** to be true **:** to remain valid▪ Her advice still *holds* [=*applies*] today. ▪ The general rule *holds* in most cases. — often used in the phrases ***hold true*** and (less commonly) ***hold good***▪ The general rule *holds true* in most cases. ▪ Their son needs support and understanding. The same *holds true* for all children. ▪ The advice she gave us 10 years ago still *holds good* today.

19 : to wait to speak to someone on the telephone [*no obj*] All operators are currently busy. Please *hold*. [+ *obj*] All operators are busy. Please ***hold the line*** for a minute.

hold a candle to see CANDLE

hold against [*phrasal verb*] ***hold (something) against (someone)*** **:** to use (something) as a reason to have a bad opinion of (someone)▪ He lied to her once, and she still *holds it against him*. ▪ Nobody is going to *hold it against you* if you don't come. [=no one is going to be angry or upset with you if you don't come]

hold a gun to someone's head see [1]GUN

hold all the aces see [1]ACE

hold (all/all of) the cards see [1]CARD

hold back [*phrasal verb*] **1 a :** to stop yourself from doing something▪ She wanted to introduce herself to him but she *held back* out of shyness. **b :** to make a less than complete effort▪ She could have beaten him in the race, but she *held back* and let him win. [=she did not run as fast as she could have so that he would win] **c *hold (someone) back*** **:** to stop (someone) from doing something▪ Once he starts talking, ***there's no holding him back*** [=it's very hard to get him to stop talking] **2 *hold (something) back* or *hold back (something)*** **a :** to not allow (something) to be seen or known by someone▪ He was unable to *hold back* his tears. [=to keep from crying] ▪ The government *held back* [=*withheld*] some crucial information from the media. ▪ I know you're angry, so don't *hold* anything *back* (from me). [=tell me everything] **b :** to keep (something)▪ He *held* several thousand dollars *back* in case of an emergency. **c :** to delay (something)▪ The company *held back* the first shipment of the new product until it was completely ready. **3 *hold (someone or something) back* or *hold back (someone or something)*** **:** to stop (someone or something) from moving forward **:** to stop (someone or something) from advancing to the next level, grade, or stage ▪ She might have been more successful, but bad health *held* her *back*. ▪ He was *held back* [=*kept back*] in first grade.

hold court see [1]COURT

hold down [*phrasal verb*] **1 *hold (something) down* or *hold down (something)*** **a :** to stop (something) from being or becoming too high ▪ Could you please *hold* the noise *down*? I'm trying to read. ▪ The company is trying to *hold down* costs/expenses/prices. **b :** to continue to have (a job)▪ It's been a struggle for him to *hold down* [=*keep*] a job. **2 *hold (someone) down* or *hold down (someone)*** **:** to stop (someone) from doing something or advancing to a higher level, position, etc.▪ We need to free ourselves of the unfair restrictions that are *holding* us *down*.

hold firm **:** to refuse to change what you have been doing or believing▪ They are *holding firm* on their refusal to proceed. ▪ Despite opposition, she has *held firm* to her decision.

hold forth [*phrasal verb*] *formal* **:** to speak about something for a long time▪ He *held forth* about/on the need for reform in his country.

hold hands* or *hold someone's hand see [1]HAND

hold in [*phrasal verb*] ***hold (something) in* or *hold in (something)*** **:** to stop (an emotion) from being expressed▪ Don't *hold* your feelings *in*. Let them out.

hold off [*phrasal verb*] **1 a :** to wait to do something▪ You need to decide now. You can't *hold off* any longer. ▪ He *held off* as long as he could. — often + *on*▪ She decided to *hold off on* her vacation for a while longer. ✧ If you ***hold off doing*** something or ***hold off on doing*** something, you wait to do it at a later time.▪ He *held off on* announcing his decision. **b :** to not happen until later▪ The rain *held off* until we got home. [=it didn't rain until we got home] **2 *hold (someone) off* or *hold off (someone)*** **:** to stop (someone) from coming near someone or something▪ Her bodyguard *held off* the crowd. [=kept the crowd away from her] **3 *hold (something) off* or *hold off (something)*** **:** to defend against (something) successfully **:** WITHSTAND▪ The soldiers *held off* the attack. ▪ Our team *held off* a late rally by the other team.

hold on [*phrasal verb*] **1 :** to have or keep your hand, arms, etc., tightly around something▪ He was *holding on* [=*hanging on*] for dear life. ▪ *Hold on* (tight). It's going to get bumpy. ▪ The steps are slippery; you'd better *hold on* to the railing. **2 :** to succeed in keeping a position, condition, etc.▪ I hope we can *hold on* until help arrives. ▪ They were able to *hold on* for a 10–9 victory. **3 :** to wait or stop

briefly ▪ "Can we go now?" "*Hold on*, I'll be ready in just a minute." **4** ***hold on to (something)*** : to keep possession of (something) ▪ She's trying very hard to *hold on to* her money. ▪ He has managed to *hold on to* his lead in the polls. : to not lose or give up (something) ▪ Despite all his troubles, he has somehow *held on to* his faith in himself.

hold out [*phrasal verb*] **1 a** : to continue to exist or be available ▪ I don't know how much longer our supply of food will *hold out*. [=*last*] ▪ You should do it while your courage is still *holding out*. ▪ I'm going to keep writing as long as my money *holds out*. **b** : to continue to work ▪ My old car is still *holding out*. **2** : to continue to oppose someone or defend against something : to refuse to surrender or give in ▪ The troops were able to *hold out* until help arrived. ▪ Many of the strikers are still *holding out*. — see also HOLDOUT **3** ***hold out (something) or hold (something) out*** **a** : to reach outward with (something, such as your hand) ▪ He *held out* [=*extended*] his hand in greeting. ▪ She *held out* the car keys and asked him to drive. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ I *held out* the hand of friendship to my enemies. [=I offered friendship to my enemies] **b** : to say that there is a good reason to have (something, such as hope) ▪ The doctor didn't *hold out* [=*offer*] much hope for her recovery. [=the doctor didn't say that there was much hope for her recovery] **c** : to say that (a possibility) exists ▪ The mayor has *held out* the possibility that the library will be expanded in the future. [=has said that it is possible that the library will be expanded] **4** ***hold out for (something)*** : to refuse to accept or agree to something in order to get (something) ▪ The workers are *holding out for* higher pay. ▪ The wide receiver is *holding out for* a new contract. **5** ***hold out on (someone)*** *informal* : to keep something (such as information) from (someone) ▪ She didn't tell me she was rich; she's been *holding out on* me.

hold over [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***hold over (something) or hold (something) over*** **a** : to cause (something) to happen later ▪ A vote on the proposal has been *held over* [=*delayed, postponed*] until tomorrow. **b** *US* : to cause (something) to continue beyond a normal or planned time ▪ The movie is being *held over* for two more weeks. [=the movie will continue to be shown for two more weeks] **2** ***hold (something or someone) over*** *or* ***hold over (something or someone)*** : to keep (something or someone) from an earlier time ▪ He is the only player to have been *held over* from their previous team. — see also HOLDOVER **3** ***hold (something) over (someone)*** : to use your knowledge of (something) to influence or control the behavior of (someone) ▪ She knows about his criminal past and has been *holding* it *over* him [=she has been threatening to tell other people about his criminal past] to force him to cooperate.

hold the bag (*US*) *or Brit* ***hold the baby*** *informal* : to be given all of the blame or responsibility that should be shared with others ▪ His friends ran away and he was stuck/left *holding the bag*.

hold the fort see FORT

hold the line see ¹LINE

hold to [*phrasal verb*] **1 a** ***hold to (something)*** : to continue to have or follow (a plan, purpose, etc.) ▪ He has *held to* his plan of exercising regularly. : to not change (a decision, belief, etc.) ▪ Despite opposition, she has ***held to*** her decision. **b** ***hold (someone) to (something)*** : to force (someone) to do what is required by (something, such as a promise) ▪ You made a promise and I'm going to *hold* you *to* it. ▪ He was *held to* an impossible standard. [=he was required to meet very high expectations] **2** ***hold (someone) to (something)*** : to prevent (an opponent) from having or getting more than (a specified number of scores or shots) ▪ Our team *held* the other team *to* just three runs. ▪ The defense *held* him *to* only one shot attempt in the first half.

hold together [*phrasal verb*] **1** : to stay joined together or in one piece ▪ The empire *held together* for many decades. **2** ***hold (something) together*** *or* ***hold together (something)*** : to cause (something) to stay joined together or in one piece ▪ The coach hopes to *hold* the team *together* for at least one more season. ▪ The box was *held together* by a strong glue.

hold up [*phrasal verb*] **1** : to continue in the same condition without failing or losing effectiveness or force ▪ The sales team was *holding up* well under the stress. ▪ The nurse came in to see how I was *holding up*. ▪ Their music still *holds up* 20 years later. **2** ***hold (something) up*** *or* ***hold up (something)*** : to raise (something) ▪ He *held up* his hand. **3** ***hold up (something or someone)*** *or* ***hold (something or someone) up*** **a** : to delay, stop, or slow the movement, progress, or action of (something or someone) : DELAY ▪ Their decision was *held up* for months. ▪ A major accident *held* traffic *up* for hours. ▪ She was late for the meeting because she got *held up* in traffic. — see also HOLDUP **b** : to use a gun to rob (a person, store, etc.) ▪ Someone *held up* the gas station. ▪ He was *held up* by a masked robber. — see also HOLDUP **c** : to cause (someone or something) to be noticed for a particular reason ▪ His work has been *held up* to ridicule. [=his work has been ridiculed] ▪ Experts have been *holding* these programs *up* as examples of government waste.

hold water see ¹WATER

hold with [*phrasal verb*] ***hold with (something)*** : to agree with or approve of (something) — usually used in negative statements ▪ I don't *hold with* all these newfangled notions!

hold your breath see BREATH

hold your ground see ¹GROUND

hold your horses see ¹HORSE

hold your liquor see LIQUOR

hold your nose see ¹NOSE

hold your own : to do well in a difficult situation ▪ It was a tough interview, but she managed to *hold her own*. ▪ She's been *holding her own* against cancer.

hold your tongue *also* ***hold your peace*** : to keep silent : to not say anything about something ▪ It was difficult, but he somehow managed to *hold his tongue*.

²hold *noun, pl* holds

1 : the act of holding or gripping something [*count*] — usually singular ▪ He had/kept a tight *hold* on the rope. ▪ He loosened/tightened his *hold* on the handle. [*noncount*] He ***took hold of*** the rope. [=he took the rope and held it] ▪ She ***grabbed hold of*** his arm. [=she grabbed his arm] — often used figuratively ▪ The idea of being an actress first *took/grabbed hold of* her when she was in college. [=she first became excited by the idea when she was in college] ▪ Jealousy *took hold of* him. [=he began to feel very jealous]

2 [*count*] : a way of holding your opponent in wrestling ▪ The wrestler applied an illegal *hold*. — see also CHOKE HOLD, STRANGLEHOLD

3 [*singular*] **a** : power that is used to control something or someone [*noncount*] His ideas have lost their *hold* on/over the public. [=the public is no longer interested in his ideas] ▪ The law has no *hold* over her. ▪ He is trying to tighten his *hold* on the company's finances. [=to gain greater control of the company's finances] ▪ He has a *hold* on her. [=he has power over her; he controls her] **b** : an understanding of something — usually + *on* ▪ It's hard to ***get a hold on*** the cause of these problems.

4 [*count*] : something that can be held or stepped on for support while you are climbing ▪ She searched for *holds* in the rock. — see also FOOTHOLD, HANDHOLD, TOEHOLD

5 [*singular*] : an order that something is to be kept for a particular person or time ▪ I asked the library to ***put a hold on*** the book for me. [=to hold the book for me]

6 [*count*] : an area on a ship or airplane where cargo is stored

cop hold of see ²COP

get hold of *or chiefly US* ***get a hold of*** **1** : to get possession of (something) : to succeed in getting (something) ▪ Somehow she managed to *get hold of* the band's new album before it came out. ▪ Where did you *get hold of* that idea? [=what led you to believe that idea?] **2** : to find and talk to (someone) : to contact (someone) ▪ I need to talk to my lawyer, but I haven't been able to *get hold of* him. ▪ I've been trying to *get a hold of* [=*get in touch with*] my lawyer for days. **3** ***get hold of yourself*** *or chiefly US* ***get a hold of yourself*** : to get control of your thoughts and emotions and stop behaving in a foolish or uncontrolled way ▪ *Get a hold of yourself* and tell me what happened.

lay hold of **1** : to take and hold (something) : GRAB ▪ *Lay hold of* that rope and pull. **2** : to understand (something) ▪ The idea is difficult to *lay hold of*.

no holds barred ✧ If there are *no holds barred*, there are no limits or rules for what can and cannot be done in a particular situation. — see also NO-HOLDS-BARRED

on hold **1** : in the state of waiting to speak to someone on the telephone ▪ The person I wanted to speak to wasn't available, so the operator put my call *on hold*. ▪ They kept me *on hold* for hours! **2** : in the state of being delayed for a time ▪ Our vacation plans are *on hold*. = Our vacation plans have been ***put on hold***.

take hold *or chiefly US* ***take a hold*** : to become effective,

established, or popular ▪ The change in the law has not yet *taken hold*. ▪ new ideas that have recently *taken hold* in the fashion industry

hold•all /ˈhoʊldˌɑ:l/ *noun, pl* **-alls** [*count*] *chiefly Brit* : CARRYALL

hold•er /ˈhoʊldɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

1 : a person who holds or owns something ▪ She is the *holder* of an honorary degree. ▪ the *holder* of a world record ▪ the ticket *holder* — see also CARDHOLDER, OFFICEHOLDER, RECORD HOLDER, SHAREHOLDER, STOCKHOLDER

2 : a device that holds something ▪ a cigarette/cup *holder*

[1]hold•ing /ˈhoʊldɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-ings**

1 [*count*] : property (such as land or stocks) that is owned by someone — usually plural ▪ She has been selling many of her *holdings* in the stock market.

2 [*noncount*] *sports* : the illegal act of using your hands or arms to slow or stop the movement of an opponent in sports like ice hockey and American football ▪ penalized 10 yards for *holding*

[2]holding *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : causing or intended to cause a temporary stop or delay ▪ The troops were engaged in a *holding* action until reinforcements could arrive. ▪ a *holding* operation

2 — used to describe a place where someone or something is kept for a time before being moved somewhere else ▪ The prisoner was placed in a *holding* cell. ▪ a *holding* tank/pen

holding company *noun, pl* ~ **-ies** [*count*] *business* : a company whose main business is owning more than half of another company's stock

holding pattern *noun, pl* ~ **-terns** [*count*] : a course flown by an aircraft while waiting for permission to land ▪ Our plane was in a *holding pattern* for almost an hour because of the fog. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ The company has put production in a *holding pattern* [=has temporarily stopped production] while better testing methods are developed.

hold•out /ˈhoʊldˌaʊt/ *noun, pl* **-outs** [*count*]

1 a : a person who refuses to reach an agreement until certain terms are met : a person who holds out ▪ He says he might be a *holdout* at the start of the next season if the team doesn't agree to pay him more. **b** : an act of holding out for something ▪ He is expected to end his three-week *holdout* and join the team tomorrow.

2 : a person who continues to do or use something after others have stopped doing or using it ▪ A few *holdouts* still use typewriters, but nearly everybody uses computers now.

– see also *hold out* at [1]HOLD

hold•over /ˈhoʊldˌoʊvɚ/ *noun, pl* **-overs** [*count*] *US* : someone or something that remains or is kept from an earlier time ▪ He is the only *holdover* from their last championship team. ▪ This policy is a *holdover* from the previous administration. — see also *hold over* at [1]HOLD

hold•up /ˈhoʊldˌʌp/ *noun, pl* **-ups** [*count*]

1 : a usually brief delay ▪ a traffic *holdup* ▪ Hey, what's the *holdup*? [=what is the reason for the delay?] — see also *hold up* at [1]HOLD

2 : a robbery that is done using a gun ▪ There have been a series of *holdups* at local banks.

[1]hole /ˈhoʊl/ *noun, pl* **holes**

1 [*count*] : an opening into or through something ▪ I have a *hole* in my sock. ▪ He fixed the *hole* in the roof. ▪ a bullet *hole* ▪ make/poke/drill a *hole* ▪ a mouse *hole* in the wall

2 [*count*] **a** : a hollow place in the ground ▪ The dog dug a deep/shallow *hole*. — see also FOXHOLE, SWIMMING HOLE, WATER HOLE **b** : a place in the ground where an animal lives ▪ a rabbit *hole*

3 [*count*] *golf* **a** : the cup into which the ball is hit ▪ Her putt rolled right into the *hole*. **b** : one of the separate parts of a golf course that includes a tee and a green ▪ She made a birdie on the seventh *hole*. ▪ The course has 18 *holes*.

4 [*count*] : a flaw or weakness ▪ There are plenty of *holes* in the theory. ▪ There are a couple of *holes* in their defense. ▪ The police were unable to poke any *holes* in his story. [=to find evidence showing that his story was not true] — see also LOOPHOLE

5 [*singular*] *informal* **a** : a difficult or embarrassing situation ▪ He's in trouble and needs someone to help get/dig him out of this *hole*. [=*fix, jam*] ▪ They found themselves ***in a hole***, trailing by 10 points with not much time left in the game. **b** *US* : the state of owing or losing money ▪ She gave them a loan to help get them out of their financial *hole*. [=*debt*] ▪ He was hundreds of dollars ***in the hole*** [=he owed hundreds of dollars] by the end of the night.

6 [*count*] — used to describe a situation in which someone or something is gone or missing ▪ When their daughter went to college, it left/made a big *hole* in their lives. [=they missed their daughter very much when she went to college]

7 *informal* **a** [*count*] : a dirty and unpleasant place ▪ I can't believe he lives there! It's such a *hole*! — see also HELLHOLE **b** ***the hole*** *US* : a prison cell where a prisoner who is being punished is kept alone ▪ He spent a month in *the hole*. [=(more formally) in solitary confinement]

8 [*count*] **a** *baseball* : an open area between two fielders ▪ He hit a grounder that went through the *hole* between the first and second basemen. ▪ He hit a sharp ground ball into ***the hole***. [=the area between the shortstop and third baseman] **b** *American football* : an open area between defenders that allows an offensive player to move the ball forward ▪ a running back skilled at finding *holes*

an ace in the hole see [1]ACE

like a hole in the head *informal* ✧ If you do not need something at all, you can say that you need it *like a hole in the head*. ▪ She already has too many shoes. She needs another pair *like a hole in the head*.

punch holes in *informal* : to weaken (an argument, idea, etc.) by proving that parts of it are wrong ▪ Lawyers tried to *punch holes in* her argument.

[2]hole *verb* **holes**; **holed**; **hol•ing** *golf* : to hit (the ball) into the hole [+ *obj*] She *holed* a long putt for a birdie. [*no obj*] — + *out* ▪ She waited for her partner to *hole out* [=to finish putting the ball into the hole] before she putted.

hole up [*phrasal verb*] *informal* : to stay in a place hidden or apart from other people ▪ The criminals *holed up* in a downtown motel for a few days. ▪ The band *holed up* in the recording studio to record their album. ✧ You can *hole up* in a place or ***be/stay holed up*** in a place. ▪ The band *was/stayed holed up* in the recording studio.

hole in one *noun, pl* **holes in one** [*count*] *golf* : a score of one on a hole in golf ▪ She got/made/had a *hole in one* on the eighth hole. — called also (*US*) *ace*

hole–in–the–wall *noun, pl* **holes–in–the–wall** [*count*] *informal*

1 *chiefly US* : a small place (such as a bar or restaurant) that is not fancy or expensive ▪ We had dinner at some *hole-in-the-wall* downtown.

2 *Brit* : ATM

hol•ey /ˈhoʊli/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *informal* : having holes ▪ *holey* socks

[1]hol•i•day /ˈhɑ:ləˌdeɪ, *Brit* ˈhɒlədi/ *noun, pl* **-days**

1 [*count*] : a special day of celebration ▪ a religious *holiday* : a day when most people do not have to work ▪ July 4 is a national *holiday* in the U.S. ▪ The stock market is closed tomorrow because it's a *holiday*. — often used before another noun ▪ *holiday* gifts/parties ▪ Do you have any plans for the ***holiday weekend***? [=a weekend that is preceded or followed by a holiday] ✧ In U.S. English, ***the holiday season*** and ***the holidays*** refer to the time from November until the beginning of January during which many holidays are celebrated. ▪ How are you celebrating *the holiday season*? ▪ I'm looking forward to going home for *the holidays*. — see also BANK HOLIDAY, LEGAL HOLIDAY

2 *Brit* : VACATION [*noncount*] She'll have four weeks' *holiday* next year. ▪ She spent two weeks ***on holiday*** [=(*US*) *on vacation*] in Italy. [*count*] We're planning on taking a *holiday* in the Caribbean. — often plural ▪ She went to the Caribbean for her *holidays*. ▪ He spent the summer *holidays* in Spain.

[2]holiday *verb* **-days**; **-dayed**; **-day•ing** [*no obj*] *Brit* : to spend a holiday in or at a particular place : VACATION ▪ She likes *holidaying* in the Caribbean.

holiday–maker *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *Brit* : VACATIONER

ho•li•er–than–thou /ˌhoʊlijəðənˈðaʊ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *disapproving* : having or showing the annoying attitude of people who believe that they are morally better than other people ▪ a *holier-than-thou* attitude

ho•li•ness /ˈhoʊlinəs/ *noun*

1 [*noncount*] : the quality or state of being holy ▪ the *holiness* of this sacred place

2 *Holiness* [*count*] — used in the titles of high religious officials ▪ His *Holiness* the pope ▪ Does Your *Holiness* require anything else?

hol•is•tic /hoʊˈlɪstɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : relating to or concerned with complete systems rather than with individual parts ▪ *Holistic* medicine attempts to treat both the mind

and the body. ▪ We need to take a more *holistic* approach to improving our schools.

hol•lan•daise /ˌhɑːlənˈdeɪz/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a rich sauce made of butter, egg yolks, and lemon juice or vinegar — called also *hollandaise sauce*

hol•ler /ˈhɑːlɚ/ *verb* **-lers**; **-lered**; **-ler•ing** *chiefly US, informal*

1 : to call out loudly : SHOUT [*no obj*] He was *hollering* across the fields to his workers. ▪ They were screaming and *hollering* at each other all night. [+ *obj*] He *hollered* (out) orders to his workers. ▪ She *hollered* across the street, "Did you hear the news?" ▪ Someone was *hollering* my name.

2 [*no obj*] : to make loud or angry complaints ▪ People always *holler* about tax increases.

– **holler** *noun, pl* **-lers** [*count*] ▪ If you need any help, just give (me) a *holler*. [=just let me know if you need any help]

[1]hol•low /ˈhɑːloʊ/ *adj* **hol•low•er**; **-est**

1 : having nothing inside : not solid ▪ a *hollow* log

2 : curved inward or down ▪ *hollow* [=*sunken*] cheeks ▪ There was a *hollow* spot in the field.

3 : not having real value or meaning ▪ They achieved a *hollow* victory over a team missing its best players. [=their victory was not an important or impressive one since the other team was missing its best players] ▪ She made *hollow* promises. [=she made promises she would not keep] ▪ Their threats ***ring hollow***. = Their threats ***have a hollow ring***. [=their threats do not seem truthful or sincere]

4 ✧ A sound that is ***hollow*** is like the sound made when you hit something that is empty inside. ▪ He heard a *hollow* sound when he knocked on the wall.

5 : weak and without any emotion ▪ "It's useless," he said in a *hollow* voice. ▪ a *hollow* laugh

– **hol•low•ly** /ˈhɑːləli/ *adv* ▪ "It's useless," he said *hollowly*.

– **hol•low•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *hollowness* of her promises

[2]hollow *noun, pl* **-lows** [*count*]

1 : a place or area (especially on the ground) that is lower than the area around it ▪ a grassy *hollow*

2 : an empty space inside of something ▪ The owls nested in the *hollow* of a tree.

in the hollow of your hand ✧ If you hold something *in the hollow of your hand*, you hold it in your palm with your hand curved like a cup ▪ I held the bead *in the hollow of my hand*.

[3]hollow *verb* **-lows**; **-lowed**; **-low•ing** [+ *obj*] : to remove the inside of (something) ▪ They *hollowed* the log to make a canoe. — often used as *(be) hollowed* ▪ a *hollowed* tree

hollow out [*phrasal verb*] ***hollow (something) out*** *or* ***hollow out (something)*** **1** : to remove the inside of (something) : to make an empty space in (something) ▪ The kids were *hollowing out* pumpkins. ▪ a *hollowed-out* log **2** : to form (something) by digging or cutting the inside of something ▪ Workers *hollowed out* a tunnel through the mountain. ▪ He *hollowed out* a bowl from the wood.

hol•ly /ˈhɑːli/ *noun, pl* **-lies** [*count, noncount*] : a tree or bush with dark green leaves and bright red berries; *also* : the branches of this plant which are used for decoration especially at Christmas

hol•ly•hock /ˈhɑːliˌhɑːk/ *noun, pl* **-hocks** [*count*] : a tall plant with rounded leaves and brightly colored flowers

[1]Hol•ly•wood /ˈhɑːliˌwʊd/ *noun* [*singular*] : the American movie industry ▪ an actor who has had a long career in *Hollywood* ✧ Hollywood is a part of Los Angeles, California, where the American movie industry is based.

[2]Hollywood *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : relating to or characteristic of people in the American movie industry ▪ the *Hollywood* lifestyle

2 : relating to or typical of a movie made in Hollywood ▪ a story with a *Hollywood* ending [=a happy ending; an ending like the one you often see in movies]

ho•lo•caust /ˈhoʊləˌkɑːst, ˈhɑːləˌkɑːst/ *noun, pl* **-causts** *formal*

1 ***the Holocaust*** : the killing of millions of Jews and other people by the Nazis during World War II ▪ The museum is devoted to *the Holocaust*. ▪ Her parents were survivors of *the Holocaust*. = Her parents were *Holocaust* survivors. ▪ a *Holocaust* memorial

2 [*count*] : an event or situation in which many people are killed and many things are destroyed especially by fire ▪ There were fears of a nuclear *holocaust*.

ho•lo•gram /ˈhoʊləˌgræm, ˈhɑːləˌgræm/ *noun, pl* **-grams** [*count*] : a special kind of picture that is produced by a laser and that looks three-dimensional

hols /ˈhɑːlz/ *noun* [*plural*] *Brit, informal + old-fashioned* : VACATION ▪ Where did you have your *hols*?

Hol•stein /ˈhoʊlˌstiːn/ *noun, pl* **-steins** [*count*] *US* : a black-and-white cow used for milk

hol•ster /ˈhoʊlstɚ/ *noun, pl* **-sters** [*count*] : a leather case that you wear on your body and that holds a small gun

ho•ly /ˈhoʊli/ *adj* **ho•li•er**; **-est**

1 a : connected to a god or a religion ▪ a *holy* temple ▪ a *holy* relic worn by one of the saints ▪ the *Holy* Bible **b** : religious and morally good ▪ a *holy* man

2 *informal* — used in phrases that show surprise or excitement ▪ ***Holy cow***! [=*Wow*!] ▪ ***Holy mackerel***! You got your hair cut! ▪ ***Holy smoke***!

3 *informal* — used for emphasis ▪ That boy is a ***holy terror***. [=he is very difficult to control] ▪ He gave them ***holy hell***. [=he scolded them in a very angry way]

Holy Communion *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : COMMUNION

holy day *noun, pl* ~ **days** [*count*] : a day when a religious festival or holiday is observed

Holy Family *noun*

the Holy Family : Jesus Christ, his mother Mary, and her husband Joseph

Holy Father *noun* [*singular*] — used to refer to the Pope

Holy Ghost *noun*

the Holy Ghost : HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Grail *noun, pl* ~ **Grails**

1 *or* ***holy grail*** [*count*] : something that you want very much but that is very hard to get or achieve ▪ Finding a cure for cancer is the *holy grail* of medical researchers.

2 ***the Holy Grail*** : the cup that is said to have been used by Jesus Christ and that was sought by knights during the Middle Ages

Holy Land *noun*

the Holy Land : the area in the Middle East where the events of the Bible happened ▪ We visited *the Holy Land*.

holy of holies *noun*

1 ***the holy of holies*** : the most holy part of a Jewish temple

2 [*singular*] *humorous* : something (such as a place or event) that is thought of as very special and which only a few people are allowed to use, see, etc. ▪ His trophy room is the *holy of holies* where only his closest friends are allowed.

holy orders *noun* [*plural*] : the position of a Christian priest, bishop, etc. ▪ He ***took holy orders***. [=became a priest]

Holy Spirit *noun*

the Holy Spirit : God in the form of a spirit in Christianity ▪ the Father, the Son, and the *Holy Spirit* — called also *the Holy Ghost*

Holy Trinity *noun*

the Holy Trinity : TRINITY 1

holy war *noun, pl* ~ **wars** [*count*] : a war that is fought to defend or spread one group's religious beliefs

holy water *noun* [*noncount*] : water that has been blessed by a priest

Holy Week *noun* [*noncount*] : the week before Easter in the Christian church

hom•age /ˈɑːmɪʤ, *Brit* ˈhɑːmɪʤ/ *noun*

1 [*noncount*] : respect or honor ▪ People bowed ***in homage to*** [=as a sign of respect for] the king as he passed by. ▪ Her paintings ***pay homage to*** [=*honor*] women artists of the past.

2 [*singular*] : something that is done to honor someone or something ▪ Her book is a/an *homage* to her favorite city.

hom•bre /ˈɑːmbreɪ/ *noun, pl* **-bres** [*count*] *US, informal* : a man : GUY ▪ He is one tough *hombre*. [=he is very tough]

[1]home /ˈhoʊm/ *noun, pl* **homes**

1 : the place (such as a house or apartment) where a person lives [*count*] Right now his *home* is a small apartment. ▪ People are concerned about protecting their *homes*. ▪ (*chiefly US*) The neighborhood is filled with expensive new *homes*. [=*houses*] ▪ They've started on a major ***home-improvement*** project. [=a project to make their house better, bigger, more modern, etc.] ▪ They have a ***second/vacation home*** on the lake. [*noncount*] There's no place like *home*. ▪ Let's stay at *home* tonight. [=let's not go out tonight] ▪ I must have left my notes at *home*. ▪ We're a long way from *home*. [=we are not close to our house] ▪ I will be ***away from home*** [=I will not be at my house] for two weeks. ▪ He has no place to ***call home***. [=he does not have a place to live] ▪ He ***works at/from home***. [=he does his work in his house and not in an office building] — see also AT HOME (below), MOBILE HOME, MOTOR HOME

2 [*count*] : a family living together in one building, house, etc. ▪ She made a good *home* for her husband and children. ▪ She came from a troubled *home*. [=a family with many problems] ▪ He comes from a ***broken home*** [=a family in which the parents have divorced] ▪ She ***lived at home*** [=she lived with her parents or family] until she got married. ▪ He ***left home*** [=left his parent's house and lived in his own house] after graduating from high school.

3 a : a place where something normally or naturally lives or is located [*count*] Australia is the *home* [=*habitat*] of the kangaroo. [*noncount*] The islands are *home* to many species of birds. **b** [*count*] : the place where something began or was created — usually + *of* ▪ The restaurant advertises itself as the *home of* the "Big Burger." **c** [*count*] : a place where something is placed, stored, etc. ▪ Can you find *homes* for these files in your office?

4 : the place where someone lives or originally comes from : the place to which you feel most strongly attached [*noncount*] New York will always be *home* to me. ▪ They ***made their home*** [=they settled] on the banks of the Mississippi. ▪ *People* ***back home*** [=in his hometown; in the place he is from] would never believe how much he has changed. [*count*] He has fond memories of his boyhood *home*. [=the place where he lived as a boy]

5 [*count*] : the place where an organization, a company, etc., is located and operates ▪ This building will be the orchestra's new *home*. ▪ The big television networks have their *homes* in the same city.

6 [*count*] : a place where people who are unable to care for themselves live and are cared for ▪ an orphan's *home* ▪ an old people's *home* ▪ She doesn't want to put her mother ***in a home*** — see also NURSING HOME, REST HOME

7 [*noncount*] : a place that you try to reach in some games (such as baseball) ▪ He was tagged out at *home*. — see also HOME PLATE

at home **1** : in your own country and not a foreign country ▪ We face serious threats both *at home* and abroad. **2** *sports* : in a team's own stadium, park, etc. : in the place where a team is based ▪ The team's next six games are *at home*. [=in its own stadium] ▪ The team has done much better *at home* [=in its home games] than on the road. — see also ¹HOME 1 (above) **3** : relaxed and comfortable ▪ She feels *at home* on the stage. ▪ They ***made me feel (right) at home*** my first day at the new job. ▪ Come on in and ***make yourself at home*** [=do what you need to do to feel relaxed and comfortable] ▪ The professor is equally ***at home in*** politics and history. [=knows a lot about both politics and history] ▪ I've never really felt/been completely ***at home with*** [=comfortable and confident about using] all these newfangled machines.

charity begins at home see CHARITY

home away from home (*US*) *or Brit* ***home from home*** : a place that is as pleasant and comfortable as your own home ▪ Whenever he came to the city, his brother's place was like a *home away from home*.

home sweet home ✧ You say *home sweet home* to show that you are happy when you return to your home after being away from it.

– **home·like** /ˈhoʊmˌlaɪk/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *chiefly US* ▪ an inn with a *homelike* atmosphere

²home *adv*

1 : to or at the place where you live ▪ She called *home* to say she would be late for dinner. ▪ He's sending money *home* from a job overseas. ▪ She is on her way *home*. ▪ It's great to be back *home*. ▪ (*chiefly US*) They're never *home* when I try to see them. ▪ I can't wait to ***come/go/get home***. ▪ (*chiefly US*) Let's ***stay home*** tonight. [=let's not go out tonight] ▪ He ***brings/takes home*** about $750 a week. [=the amount of money he gets after paying taxes, health insurance, etc., is about $750 each week]

2 a : into a finished or final position ▪ He used a hammer to drive the nail *home*. ▪ shove the bolt *home* [=all the way into its place] **b** *sports* : to, toward, or into a goal ▪ He fired the puck *home*. [=he shot the hockey puck into the goal]

bring home the bacon see BACON

bring (something) home : to make (something) very clear and obvious in usually a forceful or unpleasant way — usually + *to* ▪ The importance of regular exercise was *brought home to him* when his best friend developed heart problems.

close to home see ²CLOSE

come home to : to become very clear and obvious to (someone) in usually a forceful or unpleasant way ▪ The truth about her marriage *came home to her* when he left her.

come home to roost see ²ROOST

drive your point home : to say something in a very strong or forceful way : to make a point very forcefully ▪ He *drove his point home* during the debate.

hit/strike home : to become very clear and obvious in usually a forceful or unpleasant way ▪ The truth about their marriage finally *hit home*.

home free (*US*) *or Brit* ***home and dry*** *informal* : sure of succeeding, winning, etc. : no longer in danger of failing ▪ If we can meet this next deadline, we'll be *home free*.

nothing to write home about see WRITE

ram home see ²RAM

till/until the cows come home see ¹COW

³home *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : of or relating to a home or family ▪ She has a happy *home* life. ▪ Please give us your *home* phone number. ▪ What is your *home* address?

2 : designed to be used in your home ▪ a *home* entertainment system : done or made in your home ▪ *home* cooking — often used in combination ▪ He couldn't wait to have a ***home-cooked*** meal. [=a meal made and eaten at home] — see also HOME MOVIE, HOME VIDEO

3 *sports* : at a team's own field, stadium, arena, etc. ▪ the *home* team ▪ *home* games ▪ The team opens its *home* season in just two weeks. — compare AWAY, ROAD

4 *chiefly Brit* : of, relating to, or coming from within your own country : DOMESTIC ▪ We can make a profit on *home* sales alone. ▪ the *home* market

home brew see ²BREW

⁴home *verb* **homes; homed; hom·ing**

home in on [*phrasal verb*] ***home in on (someone or something)*** : to find and move directly toward (someone or something) ▪ The missile was *homing in on* its target. — often used figuratively ▪ Researchers are *homing in on* the cause of the disease.

home base *noun, pl ~* **bases**

1 [*count*] : the place in which someone or something lives or operates — usually singular ▪ The company's *home base* is in New York. ▪ (*informal*) She returned to her *home base* [=she went back home] after a long month of traveling.

2 [*noncount*] *baseball* : HOME PLATE

home·body /ˈhoʊmˌbɑːdi/ *noun, pl* **-bod·ies** [*count*] *informal* : a person who likes to stay home ▪ He's a *homebody* who hates parties.

home·bound /ˈhoʊmˌbaʊnd/ *adj*

1 : unable to leave your house because of age, injury, etc. ▪ They deliver meals to *homebound* people.

2 : going home ▪ *Homebound* travelers were stranded at the airport. ▪ *homebound* traffic ▪ a *homebound* train

home·boy /ˈhoʊmˌboɪ/ *noun, pl* **-boys** [*count*] *US slang*

1 : a boy or man from your own neighborhood or hometown ▪ He dedicated his win to his *homeboys* back home.

2 : a member of your gang ▪ He was hanging out with his *homeboys*. — called also *homey*

home·buy·er /ˈhoʊmˌbajɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : someone who buys a house, apartment, etc. ▪ The books has helpful information for first-time *homebuyers*. [=for people who are buying their first home]

home·com·ing /ˈhoʊmˌkʌmɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-ings**

1 [*count*] : the act of returning to your home or to a place that is like your home ▪ A large crowd gathered at the airport for the soldiers' *homecoming*.

2 *or* **Homecoming** [*count, noncount*] *US* **a** : an annual celebration for people who attended a college or university ▪ *Homecoming* weekend **b** : an annual celebration for high-school students that includes sports games and a formal dance ▪ Who's taking you to *Homecoming*? = Who's taking you to the *Homecoming* dance?

home economics *noun* [*noncount*] : a subject or class that teaches cooking, sewing, and other skills that are useful in the home ▪ She learned to sew in *home economics*. — called also (*US, informal*) *home ec*

home fries *noun* [*plural*] *US* : potatoes that have been cut into small pieces and fried — called also *home fried potatoes*

home front *noun*

the home front : the people who stay in a country and work while that country's soldiers are fighting in a war in a foreign country ▪ During the war we had to keep up morale ***on the home front*** [=keep up morale among the people living and working in our home country]

home•girl /'hoʊm,gɚl/ *noun, pl* **-girls** [*count*] *US slang*
1 : a girl or woman from your own neighborhood or hometown ▪ She was happy to be back home with her *homegirls*.
2 : a girl or woman who is one of your friends

home•grown /'hoʊm'groʊn/ *adj*
1 : grown or made at home or in your local area ▪ The family sells their *homegrown* vegetables at the local market.
2 : raised in or coming from your local area ▪ The music festival will feature some *homegrown* talent this year.

home help *noun, pl* ~ **helps** [*count*] *Brit* : a person whose job is to help ill or elderly people in their homes with cooking, cleaning, etc.

home•land /'hoʊm,lænd/ *noun, pl* **-lands** [*count*]
1 : the country where someone was born or grew up ▪ He returned to his *homeland* for the first time in many years.
2 : a usually large area where a particular group of people can live ▪ The rebels are fighting for an independent *homeland*. ▪ the Department of *Homeland* Security [=a department in the U.S. government that is responsible for the safety of the U.S. and its citizens]

home•less /'hoʊmləs/ *adj* : having no place to live ▪ *homeless* people ▪ We volunteer at the *homeless* shelter. [=a building where homeless people can sleep and get food]
the homeless : homeless people : people who have no place to live ▪ a shelter for *the homeless*
– **home•less•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

home loan *noun, pl* ~ **loans** [*count*] : ¹MORTGAGE

home•ly /'hoʊmli/ *adj* **home•li•er**; **-est**
1 *US* : not pretty or handsome : plain or unattractive ▪ She has a *homely* face. ▪ He's a bit *homely* but nice.
2 *Brit* : plain and simple in an appealing or pleasant way ▪ the *homely* appeal of farm life ▪ The hotel has a *homely* [=(*US*) *homey*] atmosphere.
– **home•li•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

home•made /'hoʊm'meɪd/ *adj* : made in the home and not in a factory, store, etc. ▪ *homemade* bread — compare STORE-BOUGHT

home•mak•er /'hoʊm,meɪkɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a wife who does work (such as sewing, cleaning, or cooking) at home and usually does not have another job outside the home : HOUSEWIFE ▪ TV commercials often show happy *homemakers*.
– **home•mak•ing** /'hoʊm,meɪkɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the challenges of *homemaking*

home movie *noun, pl* ~ **-ies** [*count*] : a movie that you make for people to watch in your home and that is usually of your family or a family event ▪ We watched *home movies* of the family reunion. — compare HOME VIDEO

home office *noun, pl* ~ **-fices**
1 [*count*] : a room in your house where you do office work ▪ When I began working from home, I set up a *home office*.
2 ***the Home Office*** *Brit* : the department in the British government that deals with the law, the police, and prisons, and that decides which people can come into the country

ho•me•op•a•thy *also Brit* **ho•moe•op•a•thy** /,hoʊmi'ɑ:pəθi/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a system for treating illnesses that uses very small amounts of substances that would in larger amounts produce symptoms of the illnesses in healthy people
– **ho•meo•path** *also Brit* **ho•moeo•path** /'hoʊmijə,pæθ/ *noun, pl* **-paths** [*count*] Maybe you should see a *homeopath*. – **ho•meo•path•ic** *also Brit* **ho•moeo•path•ic** /,hoʊmijə'pæθɪk/ *adj* ▪ *homeopathic* medicine/treatments

home•own•er /'hoʊm,oʊnɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a person who owns a home, apartment, etc. ▪ The new law should provide tax relief for *homeowners*. ▪ Do you have ***homeowner's insurance***? [=insurance that covers damage to your house or the things inside your house]

home page *noun, pl* ~ **pages** [*count*] : the part of a Web site that is seen first and that usually contains links to other parts of the site ▪ They have designed a simpler *home page* that is easier to use.

home plate *noun* [*noncount*] *baseball* : the base that a runner must touch in order to score ▪ The runner was tagged out at *home plate*. — called also *home base*

hom•er /'hoʊmɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *baseball, informal* : HOME RUN ▪ He hit three *homers* in yesterday's game.
– **homer** *verb* **-ers**; **-ered**; **-er•ing** [*no obj*] ▪ He *homered* three times in yesterday's game.

home•room /'hoʊm,ru:m/ *noun, pl* **-rooms** *US* : a classroom where students go at the beginning of each school day [*count*] They were assigned to different *homerooms*. [*noncount*] He was late for *homeroom*.

home rule *noun* [*noncount*] : government of a place (such as a country or territory) by the people who live there instead of by another country ▪ The citizens petitioned for *home rule*.

home run *noun, pl* ~ **runs** [*count*] *baseball* : a hit that allows the batter to go around all the bases and score a run ▪ He hit three *home runs*. — compare DOUBLE, SINGLE, TRIPLE

home•school /'hoʊm,sku:l/ *verb* **-schools**; **-schooled**; **-school•ing** *US* : to teach your children at home instead of sending them to a school [+ *obj*] They *homeschooled* both their children. [*no obj*] Parents who *homeschool* are meeting on Thursday.
– **homeschooling** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ They believe in *homeschooling*.

home•school•er /'hoʊm,sku:lɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *US*
1 : a child who is taught at home instead of in a school ▪ Both of their children were *homeschoolers*.
2 : a parent who teaches a child at home instead of sending the child to a school ▪ His parents are *homeschoolers*.

home•sick /'hoʊm,sɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : sad because you are away from your family and home ▪ He was/got *homesick* when he went to college. ▪ She was *homesick* for her mother's cooking.
– **home•sick•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

home•spun /'hoʊm,spʌn/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : plain and simple ▪ People enjoy his folksy, *homespun* manner.

¹home•stead /'hoʊm,stɛd/ *noun, pl* **-steads** [*count*]
1 : a house and the farmland it is on ▪ They decided to farm the old *homestead*.
2 *US* : a piece of government land that a person could acquire by living on it and farming it when the western part of the U.S. was being settled

²homestead *verb* **-steads**; **-stead•ed**; **-stead•ing** *US* : to settle on goverment land and farm it [*no obj*] They *homesteaded* in Alaska. [+ *obj*] They *homesteaded* the territory in the 1860s.
– **home•stead•er** /'hoʊm,stɛdɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

home•stretch /'hoʊm'strɛʧ/ *noun, pl* **-stretch•es** [*count*] : the part of a racetrack between the last turn and the finish line ▪ The horses are in the *homestretch*. — often used figuratively ▪ The presidential race remains extremely close as we enter the *homestretch*. [=as we near the finish] — called also (*Brit*) *home straight*

home theater *noun, pl* ~ **-ters** [*count*] : an entertainment system for your home that usually includes a large television, a DVD player or VCR, and a sound system with many speakers

home•town /'hoʊm'taʊn/ *noun, pl* **-towns** [*count*] : the city or town where you were born or grew up ▪ She returned to her *hometown* to stay after college. ▪ *hometown* friends

home truth *noun, pl* ~ **truths** [*count*] : an unpleasant fact about someone or something — usually plural ▪ She was all ready to tell him some hard *home truths*. ▪ The doctor told me the *home truths* about the dangers of smoking.

home video *noun, pl* ~ **videos**
1 [*noncount*] *US* : movies that are sold on videotapes or DVDs and are meant to be watched on television at home ▪ the latest releases in *home video* ▪ the *home video* market
2 [*count*] : a home movie that is recorded with a video camera ▪ We watched a *home video* of their wedding.

home visit *noun, pl* ~ **-its** [*count*] *Brit* : HOUSE CALL

home•ward /'hoʊmwɚd/ *also chiefly Brit* **home•wards** /'hoʊmwɚdz/ *adv* : in the direction of home ▪ He struggled *homeward* in the rain. ▪ I am ***homeward bound*** [=going home]
– **homeward** *adj* ▪ a *homeward* voyage/journey

home•work /'hoʊm,wɚk/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : work that a student is given to do at home ▪ Please do/finish your *homework*. ▪ She started her algebra *homework*. — compare CLASSWORK
2 : research or reading done in order to prepare for something — used in the phrase ***do your homework*** ▪ The candidate *did his homework* [=studied the issues] before the debate.

¹hom•ey /'hoʊmi/ *adj* **hom•i•er**; **-est** [*or more* ~; *most* ~] *chiefly US* : comfortable or familiar like home ▪ a *homey* [=(*Brit*) *homely*] restaurant with a warm fireplace ▪ a *homey* atmosphere
– **hom•ey•ness** *or* **hom•i•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ We

liked the *homeyness* of the restaurant.

²homey *noun, pl* **-ies** [*count*] *US slang* : HOMEBOY

ho•mi•cid•al /ˌhɑːməˈsaɪdl̩/ *adj*
1 : likely to kill someone ▪ a *homicidal* maniac
2 : of or relating to murder ▪ a *homicidal* obsession ▪ *homicidal* thoughts

ho•mi•cide /ˈhɑːməˌsaɪd/ *noun, pl* **-cides** *chiefly US* : the act of killing another person : MURDER [*count*] The number of *homicides* increased last year. [*noncount*] He has been arrested for *homicide*.

hom•i•ly /ˈhɑːməli/ *noun, pl* **hom•i•lies** *formal*
1 [*count*] : a usually short talk on a religious or moral topic ▪ The priest gave a brief *homily* on forgiveness.
2 : advice that is often not wanted [*count*] We had to listen to another one of his *homilies* about the value of public service. [*noncount*] a politician with a fondness for *homily*

hom•ing /ˈhoʊmɪŋ/ *adj, always used before a noun*
1 : returning home ▪ an animal with a ***homing instinct*** [=an ability to return home from a great distance]
2 *technical* : able to find and follow a target ▪ A *homing* device guides the missile to the target. ▪ a *homing* torpedo

homing pigeon *noun, pl* ~ **-geons** [*count*] : a pigeon that is trained to return home from a great distance

hom•i•ny /ˈhɑːməni/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a food made from dried corn ▪ We had pork and *hominy* stew.

ho•mo /ˈhoʊmoʊ/ *noun, pl* **-mos** [*count*] *informal + offensive* : a homosexual person

ho•mo•ge•neous /ˌhoʊməˈʤiːnjəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *somewhat formal* : made up of the same kind of people or things ▪ a racially *homogeneous* neighborhood [=a neighborhood in which all the people belong to the same race] ▪ a fairly *homogeneous* collection of examples — compare HETEROGENEOUS
– **ho•mo•ge•ne•ity** /ˌhoʊməʤəˈniːjəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* ▪ racial/economic/cultural *homogeneity*

ho•mog•e•nize *also Brit* **ho•mog•e•nise** /hoʊˈmɑːʤəˌnaɪz/ *verb* **-niz•es**; **-nized**; **-niz•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal*
1 : to treat (milk) so that the fat is mixed throughout instead of floating on top
2 : to change (something) so that its parts are the same or similar ▪ The new curriculum is an attempt to *homogenize* education throughout the county.
– **ho•mog•e•ni•za•tion** *also Brit* **ho•mog•e•ni•sa•tion** /hoʊˌmɑːʤənəˈzeɪʃən, *Brit* həʊˌmɒʤəˌnaɪˈzeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *homogenization* of society – **homogenized** *also Brit* **homogenised** *adj* ▪ a carton of *homogenized* milk ▪ an increasingly *homogenized* society

ho•mog•e•nous /hoʊˈmɑːʤənəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : HOMOGENEOUS

ho•mo•graph /ˈhɑːməˌgræf, *Brit* ˈhɒməˌgrɑːf/ *noun, pl* **-graphs** [*count*] : a word that is spelled like another word but that is different in origin, meaning, or pronunciation ▪ The words "bow" for a part of a ship and "bow" for a weapon that shoots arrows are *homographs*.

hom•onym /ˈhɑːməˌnɪm/ *noun, pl* **-nyms** [*count*] : a word that is spelled and pronounced like another word but is different in meaning ▪ The noun "bear" and the verb "bear" are *homonyms*.

ho•mo•phobe /ˈhoʊməˌfoʊb/ *noun, pl* **-phobes** [*count*] : a person who hates or is afraid of homosexuals or treats them badly
– **ho•mo•pho•bia** /ˌhoʊməˈfoʊbijə/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ She was accused of *homophobia*. – **ho•mo•pho•bic** /ˌhoʊməˈfoʊbɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ *homophobic* remarks

ho•mo•phone /ˈhɑːməˌfoʊn/ *noun, pl* **-phones** [*count*] : a word that is pronounced like another word but is different in meaning, origin, or spelling ▪ "To," "too," and "two" are *homophones*.

Ho•mo sa•pi•ens /ˌhoʊmoʊˈseɪpijənz, *Brit* ˌhəʊməʊˈsæpiənz/ *noun, pl* **Homo sapiens** *technical* : the species of human beings that exist today [*noncount*] All people are members of *Homo sapiens*. [*plural*] All *Homo sapiens* [=human beings] share certain characteristics.

ho•mo•sex•u•al /ˌhoʊməˈsɛkʃəwəl/ *adj, somewhat formal*
1 : sexually attracted to people of the same sex ▪ a *homosexual* man
2 : based on or showing a sexual attraction to people of the same sex ▪ *homosexual* behavior ▪ a *homosexual* affair — compare BISEXUAL, HETEROSEXUAL
– **homosexual** *noun, pl* **-als** [*count*] ▪ bias against *homosexuals* – **ho•mo•sex•u•al•i•ty** /ˌhoʊməˌsɛkʃəˈwæləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ He is very open about his *homosexuality*.

hon /ˈhʌn/ *noun, informal* — used to address someone you love ▪ Hey, *hon*, would you get the door for me? ✧ *Hon* is a short form of *honey*.

Hon. *also Brit* **Hon** *abbr* honorable — used in titles ▪ the *Hon*. Judge Smith presiding

hon•cho /ˈhɑːnʧoʊ/ *noun, pl* **-chos** [*count*] *chiefly US, informal* : a person who is in charge of other people ▪ corporate *honchos* ▪ Talk to the ***head honcho***. [=the person with the most authority]

hone /ˈhoʊn/ *verb* **hones**; **honed**; **hon•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to sharpen (something, such as a knife) with a stone ▪ *hone* a blade
2 : to make (something, such as a skill) better or more effective ▪ She *honed* her language skills by reading and writing every day.
hone in on [*phrasal verb*] *US* : to find and go directly toward (someone or something) ▪ The missile was *honing in on* [=*homing in on*] its target. — usually used figuratively ▪ Researchers are *honing in on* the cause of the disease. ✧ Although *hone in on* is widely used, many people regard it as an error for *home in on*.

¹hon•est /ˈɑːnəst/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 a : good and truthful : not lying, stealing, or cheating ▪ They are *honest* people. ▪ He says that it's impossible to find an *honest* politician. ▪ These criminals pose a danger to *honest* citizens. — opposite DISHONEST **b** : showing or suggesting a good and truthful character ▪ He has an *honest* face. — opposite DISHONEST
2 : not hiding the truth about someone or something : not meant to deceive someone ▪ Just give me an *honest* answer. ▪ an *honest* reply ▪ If you want my *honest* opinion, you should get a job. ▪ To be perfectly/quite *honest*, I don't want to go. ▪ You shouldn't be afraid of a little *honest* criticism. [=criticism that is based on facts] ▪ I'd be less than *honest* [=I would be lying] if I told you there won't be problems. ▪ He gave us a painfully/brutally/refreshingly *honest* account of his childhood. ▪ I don't think these people are being ***honest with me***. [=I don't think they're telling me the truth] — opposite DISHONEST
3 a : not deserving blame : not done with the intent of hurting or harming anyone ▪ It was an *honest* error/mistake. **b** : done using your own work or effort ▪ He still goes to the office every morning and puts in an *honest* day's work. : not gotten by cheating, lying, etc. ▪ He's just trying to earn an ***honest living***. [=he is trying to earn a good amount of money for his hard work] ▪ These people work hard, and they deserve an ***honest wage***. [=an amount of money that is fair for the work that is done]
4 : plain and good : not fancy ▪ The restaurant prides itself on serving simple, *honest* food.
make an honest woman of (someone) *or* ***make (someone) an honest woman*** *old-fashioned + humorous* : to marry (a woman, especially a woman you have already had sex with) ▪ When will he finally *make an honest woman of* her?

²honest *adv, informal* — used to stress that a statement is true ▪ I didn't do it—*honest* I didn't! ▪ She is not my friend, *honest*. — sometimes used in the phrases ***honest to God*** or ***honest to goodness*** ▪ *Honest to God*, I wasn't there that night. ▪ He told you that? *Honest to goodness*? [=*really*?; *honestly*?] — see also HONEST-TO-GOODNESS

hon•est•ly /ˈɑːnəstli/ *adv* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 a : without cheating or lying : in an honest way ▪ Officials counted the votes *honestly*. ▪ The bank has always dealt *honestly* with me. ▪ I can *honestly* say that I have never seen that man before today. ▪ He spoke *honestly* about the mistakes he had made. **b** : in a genuine way : without pretending ▪ He was *honestly* [=*truly*] frightened by what the doctor told him. ▪ She *honestly* believes that she has been mistreated.
2 — used to stress that a statement is true ▪ *Honestly*, I don't know how you can raise kids and work too. ▪ I *honestly* don't know what to do.
3 *informal* — used to express annoyance or disapproval ▪ *Honestly*! Is that the best you can do?!

honest–to–goodness *adj, always used before a noun, chiefly US, informal* : REAL ▪ He is an *honest-to-goodness* legend. ▪ an *honest-to-goodness* movie star

hon•es•ty /ˈɑːnəsti/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the quality of being fair and truthful : the quality of being honest ▪ She is admired for her kindness and her *honesty*. ▪ He demands *honesty* from everyone who works for him. ▪ He didn't even have

enough *honesty* to tell me he was leaving.

honesty is the best policy — used to say that telling the truth is better than lying even when it is hard to do ▪ He realized *honesty is the best policy* and told them what really happened to their car.

in all honesty — used to stress that a statement is true ▪ *In all honesty*, I don't know what you're talking about. ▪ I don't like him, but *in all honesty*, I don't know why.

hon•ey /ˈhʌni/ *noun, pl* **-eys**

1 [*noncount*] : a thick, sweet substance made by bees ▪ She likes *honey* in her tea.

2 *informal* — used to address someone you love ▪ "*Honey*, would you pass the salt?" ▪ *Honey*, I'm home!

3 [*singular*] *chiefly US, informal* : something that is very good ▪ The shortstop made a *honey* of a play. [=he made a very good play] ▪ Your car is a real *honey*.

land of milk and honey see ¹LAND

hon•ey•bee /ˈhʌniˌbi:/ *noun, pl* **-bees** [*count*] : a bee that makes honey — see color picture on page C10

hon•ey•comb /ˈhʌniˌkoʊm/ *noun, pl* **-combs** : a group of wax cells with six sides that are built by honeybees in their hive and that contain young bees or honey [*noncount*] a piece of *honeycomb* [*count*] One of the *honeycombs* was empty.

hon•ey•combed /ˈhʌniˌkoʊmd/ *adj* : having many holes or open spaces ▪ The car bumper includes a special *honeycombed* plastic. ▪ The rock is *honeycombed* with caves.

hon•ey•dew melon /ˈhʌniˌdu:-, *Brit* ˈhʌniˌdju:-/ *noun, pl* ~ **-ons** [*count*] : a type of large fruit (called a melon) that has a hard, smooth skin and green flesh — see color picture on page C5

¹hon•ey•moon /ˈhʌniˌmu:n/ *noun, pl* **-moons** [*count*]

1 : a trip or vacation taken by a newly married couple ▪ Where are you going on your *honeymoon*? ▪ a *honeymoon* cruise

2 : a pleasant period of time at the start of something (such as a relationship or a politician's term in office) when people are happy, are working with each other, etc. ▪ The *honeymoon* (period) between the business partners was brief.

²honeymoon *verb* **-moons**; **-mooned**; **-moon•ing** [*no obj*] : to go on a honeymoon ▪ They *honeymooned* in Niagara Falls. ▪ a *honeymooning* couple

– **hon•ey•moon•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ The resort attracts many *honeymooners*.

hon•ey•suck•le /ˈhʌniˌsʌkəl/ *noun, pl* **-suck•les** [*count, noncount*] : a type of shrub that has bright, colorful flowers

¹honk /ˈhɑ:ŋk/ *verb* **honks**; **honked**; **honk•ing**

1 [*no obj*] *of a goose* : to make a loud sound ▪ We could hear the geese *honking* overhead.

2 a [*no obj*] *of a horn* : to make a loud sound ▪ a *honking* horn **b** : to cause (a horn) to honk [+ *obj*] The people in the cars behind us kept *honking* [=*blowing*, (*Brit*) *hooting*] their horns. [*no obj*] I *honked* at the car in front of me.

²honk *noun, pl* **honks** [*count*] : the loud sound made by a goose; *also* : a similar loud sound ▪ the *honk* of a horn

hon•ky *or* **hon•kie** /ˈhɑ:ŋki/ *noun, pl* **-kies** [*count*] *US, informal + offensive* : a white person

hon•ky–tonk /ˈhɑ:ŋkiˌtɑ:ŋk/ *noun, pl* **-tonks**

1 [*noncount*] **a** : a type of lively music usually performed on a piano **b** *US* : a type of country music with a heavy beat

2 [*count*] *US* : a cheap nightclub or dance hall that often features country music

– **honky–tonk** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ a *honky-tonk* piano/song

¹hon•or (*US*) *or Brit* **hon•our** /ˈɑ:nɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ors**

1 [*noncount*] : respect that is given to someone who is admired ▪ These people deserve to be treated with *honor*. ▪ The team brought *honor* to the school. ▪ Please welcome our ***guest of honor***. [=the person who is being specially honored] ▪ He was given a ***place of honor*** at the table. [=a seat for someone who is being specially honored] ▪ The trophy has a *place of honor* [=a special position for something that is highly valued] on the mantel. ▪ They're having a dinner ***in honor of*** the new coach. = They're having a dinner ***in the new coach's honor***. [=they are having a dinner as a way to show respect and admiration for the new coach] ▪ The building was named *in honor of* the city's founder. ▪ He wore his ethnic heritage as a ***badge of honor***. [=he was proud of his ethnic heritage and did not try to hide it]

2 [*noncount*] **a** : good reputation : good quality or character as judged by other people ▪ He was prepared to fight to defend/protect/uphold his family's *honor*. **b** : high moral standards of behavior ▪ She has a keen sense of *honor*. ▪ a code of *honor* ▪ He would not do it as a matter of *honor*. ▪ He's a man of *honor*.

3 [*singular*] *formal* **a** : a special opportunity to do something that makes you proud — usually + *of* ▪ She was given/granted the *honor of* christening the ship. ▪ I have the *honor of* informing you that you have won first prize. ▪ May I have the *honor of* this dance? [=(more commonly) will you dance with me?] **b** : something that shows that other people have respect for you ▪ It was an *honor* to be invited. ▪ It's a great *honor* (for me) to be here with you tonight. ▪ I hope you'll ***do me the honor*** of accepting this invitation. [=it will make me feel happy and proud if you accept this invitation]

4 [*count*] : something (such as a title or medal) that is given to a person as a sign of respect and admiration ▪ She has received/won many *honors* and awards for her charitable works. ▪ Charitable organizations have been heaping *honors* on him. ▪ He was buried with ***full military honors***. [=a special military ceremony for a person who has died] — see also MEDAL OF HONOR

5 [*singular*] : an admired person who is a source of pride and respect for the other members of a group, organization, etc. — used in the phrase ***an honor to*** ▪ She was *an honor to* [=*a credit to*] her profession.

6 *Honor* [*count*] — used as a title for a judge or mayor ▪ Please welcome His *Honor*, the mayor. ▪ We request a recess, Your *Honor*.

7 *honors* [*plural*] **a** : special credit or recognition given to students who have successfully done work at a high level ▪ She graduated with (top/high) *honors*. **b** : a special course of study for students who want to take classes at a high level ▪ *honors* classes/courses ▪ an *honours* degree from a British university

do the honors : to do the actions performed by a host or hostess ▪ My mother cooks a big turkey for Thanksgiving every year, and my father *does the honors* at the table. [=my father carves and serves the turkey] ▪ The Ambassador *did the honors* by introducing the guest speaker.

lap of honour see ³LAP

on your honor *formal* — used to say that you promise to do something ▪ *On my honor*, I will do my duty.

word of honor see ¹WORD

– see also MAID OF HONOR

²honor (*US*) *or Brit* **honour** *verb* **-ors**; **-ored**; **-or•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 a : to regard or treat (someone) with respect and admiration : to show or give honor to (someone) ▪ You should *honor* [=*respect*] your parents. ▪ When we got married, we promised to love and *honor* each other. ▪ We were *honored* with/by the queen's presence. ▪ (*often humorous*) Thank you for *honoring* us with your presence. [=thank you for coming here] **b** : to show admiration for (someone or something) in a public way : to give a public honor to (someone or something) ▪ She has been *honored* by several organizations for her charitable works. ▪ We need to find an appropriate way to *honor* these brave people. ▪ They're holding a dinner at which she is being *honored* (with an award) as player of the year. ▪ They have established a scholarship as a way to *honor* his memory/achievements.

2 a : to do what is required by (something, such as a promise or a contract) ▪ He claims that the company failed to *honor* [=*fulfill*] the contract/warranty. ▪ *honor* a warranty **b** : to accept (something) as payment ▪ *honor* a credit card ▪ *honor* a check **c** : to repay (a debt) ▪ They are accused of failing to *honor* their debts.

– **honored** *adj* ▪ He was welcomed as an *honored* guest. ▪ I feel *honored* to have been invited. ▪ an *honored* tradition

hon•or•able (*US*) *or Brit* **hon•our•able** /ˈɑ:nɚəbəl/ *adj*

1 [*more* ~; *most* ~] **a** : deserving honor and respect ▪ The college has a long and *honorable* history. ▪ an *honorable* profession **b** : having or showing honesty and good moral character ▪ an *honorable* man ▪ It is not *honorable* of you to behave like that. **c** : fair and proper : not deserving blame or criticism ▪ They are trying to find an *honorable* way out of this dispute. ▪ He assured her that his intentions were *honorable*. ▪ He received an ***honorable discharge*** from the army. — opposite DISHONORABLE

2 *Honorable* **a** — used as a title for some government officials ▪ the *Honorable* Senator/Judge — abbr. *Hon*. **b** *Brit* — used as a title for the children of some members of the nobility; abbr. *Hon*.

– **hon•or•ably** (*US*) *or Brit* **hon•our•ably** /ˈɑ:nɚəbli/ *adv*

▪ He served *honorably* in the war. ▪ He was *honorably* discharged from the service.

honorable mention *noun, pl* ~ **-tions** [*count*] : an award or special praise given to someone who has done something extremely well but who has not won any of the official prizes

hon•o•rar•i•um /ˌɑːnəˈrerijəm/ *noun, pl* **-ia** /-ijə/ *also* **-i-ums** [*count*] *formal* : an amount of money paid for a service ▪ We are willing to offer a small *honorarium* that we hope you will accept for judging the competition.

hon•or•ary /ˈɑːnəˌreri, *Brit* ˈɑːnərəri/ *adj*
1 : given as a sign of honor or achievement ▪ He was awarded an *honorary* degree/title.
2 *always used before a noun* **a** : regarded as one of a group although not officially elected or included ▪ He's an *honorary* member of the club. **b** : holding a position for which no payment is given : not paid ▪ He is the *honorary* president/chairman of the commission.

hon•or•ee /ˌɑːnəˈriː/ *noun, pl* **-ees** [*count*] *US* : a person who is being given an honor ▪ Three *honorees* were chosen for the Hall of Fame.

honor guard *noun, pl* ~ **guards** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a person or group that is the guard at a formal or ceremonial event (such as a military funeral or a parade)

hon•or•if•ic /ˌɑːnəˈrɪfɪk/ *adj* : giving or expressing honor or respect ▪ an *honorific* name/title
– **honorific** *noun, pl* **-ics** [*count*] ▪ The title "Excellency" was used as an *honorific*.

honor roll *noun, pl* ~ **rolls** [*count*] *US* : a list of people who deserve to be honored; *especially* : a list of students who have received good grades in school — called also (*Brit*) *roll of honour*; compare DEAN'S LIST

honor society *noun, pl* ~ **-ties** [*count*] *US* : a group of students who are honored for receiving good grades

honor system *noun, pl* ~ **-tems** [*singular*] *chiefly US* : a system in which people are trusted to follow rules and to act in an honest way ▪ Customers are on the *honor system* to pay for any software they choose to purchase.

honour, honourable *Brit spellings of* HONOR, HONORABLE

hooch /ˈhuːʧ/ *noun* [*noncount*] *chiefly US slang* : alcoholic liquor especially when it is cheap or made illegally ▪ a bottle of *hooch*

[1]hood /ˈhʊd/ *noun, pl* **hoods** [*count*]
1 a : a soft covering for the head and neck often attached to a coat or cape **b** : a cloth covering worn over the entire head to hide a person's face ▪ Witnesses reported that the bandits were wearing *hoods*. — see color picture on page C15
2 a : a cover that is used to protect or shield something (such as part of a machine or a camera lens) ▪ The photographer used a lens *hood* to cut down on glare. **b** *US* : the movable metal covering over the engine of an automobile ▪ What kind of engine do you have under the *hood*? ▪ a *hood* ornament — called also (*Brit*) *bonnet*; see picture at CAR **c** *US* : a device attached above a cooking surface that is used for carrying off smoke and fumes ▪ a range *hood*
– compare [2]HOOD, [3]HOOD

[2]hood *noun, pl* **hoods** [*count*] *US, informal* : HOODLUM ▪ a gang of *hoods* — compare [1]HOOD, [3]HOOD

[3]hood *noun, pl* **hoods** [*count*] *US slang* : a neighborhood; *especially* : a poor neighborhood in a large city ▪ his friends in *the hood* ▪ programs to help kids living in *the hood* — compare [1]HOOD, [2]HOOD

-hood /-ˌhʊd/ *noun suffix*
1 : state : condition : quality ▪ likeli*hood* ▪ false*hood* ▪ child*hood* ▪ adult*hood*
2 : people sharing a condition or character ▪ brother*hood*

hood•ed /ˈhʊdəd/ *adj*
1 : having a hood ▪ a *hooded* jacket/sweatshirt : wearing a hood ▪ a *hooded* figure
2 *of an animal* : having a head that is colored or formed in a way that looks like a hood ▪ a *hooded* duck/cobra
3 — used to describe eyes that are half closed ▪ He looked at us with *hooded* eyes.

hood•ie /ˈhʊdi/ *noun, pl* **-ies** [*count*] *informal* : a hooded sweatshirt

hood•lum /ˈhuːdləm, ˈhʊdləm/ *noun, pl* **-lums** [*count*] : a tough and violent criminal : THUG ▪ a small-time *hoodlum*

hood•wink /ˈhʊdˌwɪŋk/ *verb* **-winks**; **-winked**; **-wink•ing** [+ *obj*] *informal* : to deceive or trick (someone) ▪ Don't let yourself be *hoodwinked* into buying things you don't need.

hoo•ey /ˈhuːwi/ *noun* [*noncount*] *chiefly US, informal* : foolish talk or writing : NONSENSE ▪ Don't waste your money on that book—it's a lot of *hooey*.

[1]hoof /ˈhʊf/ *noun, pl* **hooves** /ˈhuːvz, ˈhʊvz/ *also* **hoofs** [*count*] : the hard covering on the foot of an animal (such as a horse or pig) — see picture at HORSE; see also CLOVEN HOOF
on the hoof **1** *of an animal* : while still living : before being killed for meat ▪ The cattle cost $1.20 a pound *on the hoof*. **2** *informal, of people* : while doing something else ▪ She ate lunch *on the hoof* to get the report done on time.
– **hoofed** /ˈhʊft/ *adj* ▪ *hoofed* animals

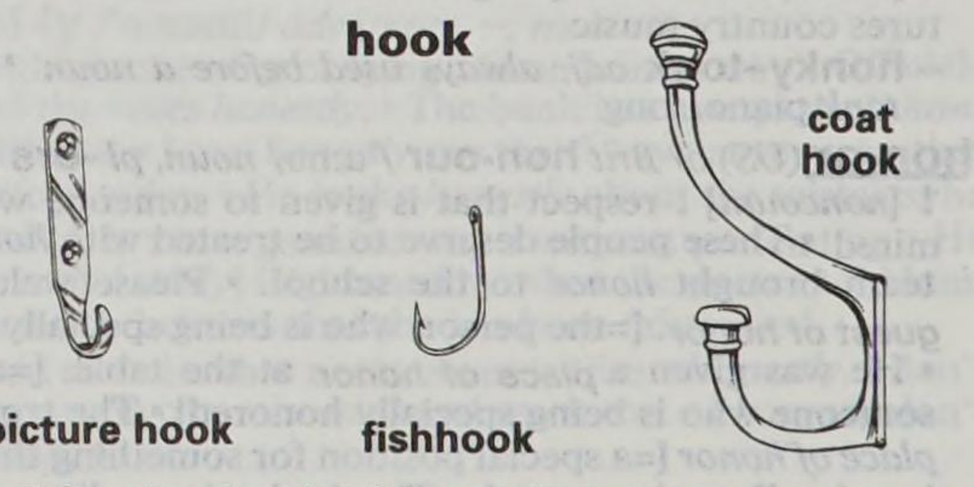
[2]hoof *verb* **hoofs**; **hoofed**; **hoof•ing** [*no obj*] *US, informal* : to dance as a performer ▪ The cast was *hoofing* on the stage.
hoof it *informal* : to move or travel on foot : to walk or run ▪ We quickly *hoofed it* down to the subway station.
– **hoof•er** /ˈhʊfə/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ a talented *hoofer* [=*dancer*] on Broadway

hoof–and–mouth disease *noun* [*noncount*] : FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

hoof•beat /ˈhʊfˌbiːt/ *noun, pl* **-beats** [*count*] : the sound made when an animal's hoof hits the ground

hoo–ha *also* **hoo–hah** /ˈhuːˌhɑː/ *noun* [*noncount*] *informal* + *usually disapproving* : great excitement or concern about something ▪ Despite all the initial *hoo-ha*, people came to accept the new building.

[1]hook /ˈhʊk/ *noun, pl* **hooks** [*count*]
1 : a curved or bent tool for catching, holding, or pulling something ▪ He baited the *hook* [=*fishhook*] with a worm. ▪ a coat/picture *hook*
2 : a ball or shot in golf and other games that curves to the side instead of going straight ▪ She hit a *hook* into the left rough.
3 *boxing* : a punch coming from the side of the body instead of going straight forward ▪ He threw a right/left *hook* to his opponent's body. — compare JAB, UPPERCUT
4 *basketball* : HOOK SHOT
5 *baseball, informal* — used to describe the action of removing a pitcher from a game ▪ He ***got the hook*** [=he was removed] after allowing three runs in the second inning. ▪ The manager ***gave him the hook***
6 : something (such as part of a song) that attracts people's attention ▪ The song has a catchy *hook*. ▪ They used the commercial as a *hook* to get people to visit their Web site.
by hook or by crook *informal* : by any possible means ▪ She was determined to succeed *by hook or by crook*.
hook, line and sinker *informal* : without hesitation or doubt : COMPLETELY ▪ He gave them some ridiculous explanation, and they fell for it *hook, line and sinker*. [=they believed his explanation completely]
off the hook **1** *informal* — used to describe someone who has avoided trouble or punishment; usually used with *get* or *let* ▪ He counted on his friends to *get* him *off the hook*. [=to protect him from trouble or punishment] ▪ I wasn't going to *let* her *off the hook* so easily. **2** *of a telephone* : with the receiver not resting in its usual position ▪ They took the phone *off the hook* so that it wouldn't ring.
on the hook for *US, informal* : owing money for (something) : responsible for (something) ▪ He's still *on the hook for* the cost of the repairs.
ring off the hook see [3]RING
sling your hook see [1]SLING



[2]hook *verb* **hooks**; **hooked**; **hook•ing**
1 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* **a** [+ *obj*] : to connect or attach (something) with a hook ▪ The train cars were *hooked* together. ▪ My sweater was *hooked* on a branch. ▪ I *hooked* the door shut. **b** [*no obj*] : to be attached by hooks ▪ The dress *hooks* in the back. ▪ The two parts *hooked* together.
2 [+ *obj*] : to catch (something, such as a fish) with a hook ▪ He *hooked* a large fish.

3 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* [+ *obj*] : to bend (a part of your body, such as an arm) and place it around something ▪ He *hooked* his arm around my neck. ▪ She *hooked* her fingers around the doorknob. ▪ He *hooked* his thumb through a loop of his pants.
4 [*no obj*] : to curve like a hook ▪ The bird's beak *hooks* downward.
5 *sports* : to hit or kick (a ball or shot) in a way that causes it to curve to the side : to hit a hook [+ *obj*] (*golf*) She *hooked* her drive into the rough. ▪ (*American football*) The kicker *hooked* the ball to the left and missed the field goal. [*no obj*] (*golf*) The ball *hooked* into the rough.
hook into [*phrasal verb*] ***hook into (something)*** *informal* : to become connected to (something, such as a computer network or a source of electrical power) ▪ We don't have the hardware we need to *hook into* the network.
hook up [*phrasal verb*] **1** *informal* : to join together to do something ▪ The two men *hooked up* to form a new company. — often + *with* ▪ She *hooked up with* a guitarist and drummer. **2** *chiefly US, informal* : to meet at a place ▪ We are planning to *hook up* after the game. — often + *with* ▪ We plan to *hook up with* our friends after the game. **3** ***hook (someone) up*** *chiefly US, informal* **a** : to cause (someone) to have a friendly or romantic relationship *with* someone ▪ They *hooked him up with* some new friends. [=they introduced him to some new friends] ▪ She tried to *hook* him *up with* [=*fix him up with*] one of her friends. **b** : to provide (someone) with something that is needed or wanted ▪ Don't worry. I'll *hook* you *up*. — usually + *with* ▪ She *hooked me up with* some great tickets. **4** ***hook up (something or someone)*** *or* ***hook (something or someone) up*** : to attach (something or someone) to a device by means of electrical connections ▪ *hook up* the wires/speakers ▪ The patient was *hooked up* to a monitor/respirator. — see also HOOKUP

hooked *adj*
1 : shaped like a hook ▪ the bird's *hooked* beak
2 *not used before a noun, informal* **a** : addicted to a drug — usually + *on* ▪ He was *hooked on* cocaine. **b** : very interested in and enthusiastic about something ▪ Her friends talked her into playing golf, and now she's *hooked*. — usually + *on* ▪ He's *hooked on* skiing. ▪ She got *hooked on* the show after watching one episode.

hook•er /ˈhʊkɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *informal* : PROSTITUTE

hook shot *noun, pl* ~ **shots** [*count*] *basketball* : a shot made by swinging the ball up and over your head with a long movement of your arm

hook•up /ˈhʊkˌʌp/ *noun, pl* **-ups** [*count*] : an arrangement or part by which pieces of equipment can be connected ▪ The interview will be broadcast through a satellite *hookup*. ▪ The cabin has electric and water *hookups*. ▪ telephone/computer/Internet *hookups* — see also *hook up* at ²HOOK

hooky *also* **hook•ey** /ˈhʊki/ *noun*
play hooky *US, informal* : to be away from school without permission : to not be at school when you should be ▪ He was *playing hooky* [=*skipping school*] with his friends.

hoo•li•gan /ˈhu:lɪgən/ *noun, pl* **-gans** [*count*] : a usually young man who does noisy and violent things as part of a group or gang ▪ The windows were broken by a gang of teenage *hooligans*. ▪ soccer *hooligans* [=violent soccer fans who fight against other soccer fans]
– **hoo•li•gan•ism** /ˈhu:lɪgəˌnɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*]

hoop /ˈhu:p/ *noun, pl* **hoops** [*count*]
1 a : a circular object : a large ring ▪ She wore gold *hoops* as earrings. = She wore ***hoop earrings***. **b** : a large metal ring used for holding together the sides of a barrel **c** : a large ring used by performers or for play — see also HULA-HOOP
2 *basketball* **a** : a metal ring that the ball must go through in order to score points ▪ He grabbed the rebound and put the ball back up through the *hoop*. [=*basket, net*] **b** *informal* : a successful shot ▪ They scored a quick *hoop* [=*basket, bucket*] on a fast break. **c** *US, informal* : BASKETBALL ▪ *hoop* fans — usually plural ▪ *hoops* fans ▪ Let's play/shoot some *hoops*. ▪ a game of *hoops* ▪ college/pro *hoops*
3 : an arch through which the ball must be hit in the game of croquet : WICKET
jump through hoops see ¹JUMP

hoop•la /ˈhu:ˌplɑ:/ *noun* [*noncount*] *chiefly US, informal* + *usually disapproving* : talk or writing that is designed to get people excited about and interested in something ▪ Many people have grown tired of all the *hoopla* surrounding the opening of the new theater.

hooray *variant spelling of* HURRAH

hoose•gow /ˈhu:sˌgaʊ/ *noun*
the hoosegow *US, informal* + *humorous* : PRISON, JAIL ▪ The cops threatened to throw him in *the hoosegow*.

¹hoot /ˈhu:t/ *noun, pl* **hoots** [*count*]
1 : the loud, deep sound made by an owl; *also* : a similar loud, deep sound ▪ (*Brit*) the *hoot* [=*honk*] of a car's horn
2 : a loud laugh or call made by a person ▪ *hoots* of laughter ▪ The announcement was met with *hoots* of derision/scorn.
3 *informal* : an amusing person or thing — usually singular ▪ Your father is a *hoot*. ▪ Wasn't that a *hoot*?
give a hoot *also* ***care a hoot*** *informal* : to care at all about someone or something — used in negative statements ▪ I don't *care a hoot* about what they say. ▪ I don't ***give two hoots*** about his problems.

²hoot *verb* **hoots; hoot•ed; hoot•ing**
1 [*no obj*] *of an owl* : to make a hoot ▪ We could hear an owl *hooting* in the woods.
2 *Brit* **a** [*no obj*] *of a horn* : to make a loud sound : HONK ▪ a *hooting* horn **b** *Brit* : to cause (a horn) to hoot [+ *obj*] The people in the cars behind us kept *hooting* [=(*US*) *honking*] their horns. [*no obj*] I *hooted* at the car in front of me.
3 : to call out or laugh loudly [*no obj*] The crowd booed and *hooted* when it was announced that the show was canceled. [+ *obj*] The crowd *hooted* its disapproval. ▪ The speaker was ***hooted down*** by a small group of protesters. [=the protesters loudly shouted at the speaker so that the speaker could not be heard] ▪ The speaker was ***hooted off*** the platform by a small group of protesters.

hoot•er /ˈhu:tɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers**
1 [*count*] : a person or device that hoots
2 ***hooters*** [*plural*] *US, informal* + *impolite* : a woman's breasts
3 [*count*] *Brit slang* : ¹NOSE 1 ▪ He has an enormous *hooter*.

hoo•ver /ˈhu:vɚ/ *verb* **-vers; -vered; -ver•ing** *Brit* : VACUUM [*no obj*] I spent the morning *hoovering*. [+ *obj*] She *hoovered* the carpet.

hooves *plural of* ¹HOOF

¹hop /ˈhɑ:p/ *verb* **hops; hopped; hop•ping**
1 [*no obj*] : to move by a quick jump or series of jumps ▪ He *hopped* over the hot sand. ▪ We crossed the stream by *hopping* from one rock to another. ▪ A frog was *hopping* along the edge of the pond. ▪ I sprained my ankle and had to *hop* (on one foot) back to the house to get help.
2 [+ *obj*] : to jump over (something) ▪ *hop* a puddle/fence
3 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* [*no obj*] *informal* **a** : to move or go quickly ▪ I *hopped* out of bed, got dressed, and headed off to work. ▪ I need to *hop* into the shower [=I need to take a quick shower] before we go. ▪ He *hopped* in the car and drove off. ▪ She *hopped* on the train/elevator/plane. **b** : to go from place to place without staying long at any one place ▪ We spent the evening *hopping* from one night club to another. ▪ She's been *hopping* from job to job for years.
4 *informal* **a** [+ *obj*] *US* : to ride on (an airplane, train, etc.) ▪ She *hopped* [=*took*] the first available flight to New York. **b** *always followed by an adverb or preposition* [*no obj*] : to make a short trip especially in an airplane ▪ They plan to *hop* down/over to the conference. — see also HOPPING
hop it *Brit, informal* : to go away quickly ▪ She told her brother to *hop it* [=*beat it*] and leave her alone.
hop to it *informal* : to act or move quickly ▪ The car was ready to leave and he was told to *hop to it*.

²hop *noun, pl* **hops** [*count*]
1 a : a short, quick jump ▪ She did a little *hop* to the left. **b** : the bounce of a ball ▪ The shortstop fielded the ball on the second *hop*.
2 *old-fashioned* : a social event with dancing ▪ a ***sock hop*** [=a social event of the 1950s in the U.S. at which teenagers danced in their socks]
3 *informal* **a** : a short flight in an airplane ▪ a *hop* down to Philadelphia **b** *chiefly US* : a short trip ▪ a quick *hop* to the grocery store
a hop, skip, and (a) jump *informal* : a short distance ▪ Her house is just *a hop, skip, and jump* from mine.
– see also HIP-HOP

¹hope /ˈhoʊp/ *verb* **hopes; hoped; hop•ing** : to want something to happen or be true and think that it could happen or be true [*no obj*] No one knows yet if anyone survived the crash. At this point, we can only *hope*. ▪ "Will you be able to come to the party?" "I ***hope so***." [=I want to go to the party

but am not sure that I will be able to] ▪ "Will you have to miss the party?" "I ***hope not***" [=I do not want to miss the party] — often + *for* ▪ He's *hoping for* a promotion. ▪ An apology is the best/most we can *hope for*. ▪ She was *hoping for* an invitation to the party. ▪ She finally got her *hoped-for* promotion. ▪ All we can do is ***hope for the best*** [=hope that things will turn out as well as possible] [+ *obj*]She *hoped* that she would be invited to the party. = She *hoped* to receive an invitation to the party. ▪ We all *hope* (that) things will be better soon. = We're all *hoping* (that) things will be better soon. ▪ They *hope* to succeed. ▪ I *hope* (that) she remembers. ▪ I *hope* you're feeling better soon. ▪ That's what she *hoped* would happen. ▪ It is (to be) *hoped* that the strike will end soon. ▪ Let's *hope* that the strike ends soon. ▪ I *hope* I haven't bored you. ▪ Everyone in your family is well, I *hope*.

here's hoping *informal* — used to say that you hope something will happen ▪ *Here's hoping* (that) it doesn't rain.

hope against hope : to hope for something when you know that it will probably not happen or be true ▪ We're *hoping against hope* that they survived the crash.

[2]hope *noun, pl* **hopes**

1 : the feeling of wanting something to happen and thinking that it could happen : a feeling that something good will happen or be true [*noncount*] When they started their life together, they were young and full of *hope*. ▪ Rescuers have not yet abandoned/lost *hope* that more survivors will be found. ▪ The drug has brought/given *hope* to thousands of sufferers. [*count*] We allowed ourselves to entertain *hopes* that the crisis would end soon. ▪ The goal raised/lifted the *hopes* of the team. ▪ The *hope* is that there will be a settlement soon. ▪ The lawyers do not want to raise false *hopes* of an early settlement. ▪ Our *hopes* are fading/dwindling. ▪ We had ***high hopes*** of winning the game. [=we felt we had a very good chance of winning the game] ▪ You shouldn't ***get your hopes up*** [=feel so hopeful] ▪ She went back to the restaurant ***with hopes of*** finding her purse there. = She went back to the restaurant ***with the hope of*** finding her purse there. [=because she thought and hoped that she might find her purse there] ▪ He told them the truth ***with the hope that*** they would understand.

2 [*noncount*] : the chance that something good will happen ▪ She believes there's *hope* of/for a cure. [=that a cure is possible] ▪ He had little/no *hope* of attending college. ▪ The latest reports hold out *hope* for a possible end to this crisis. ▪ They have a ***glimmer/ray of hope*** [=a small chance] of winning. ▪ His condition is ***beyond hope*** [=his condition is hopeless]

3 [*singular*] : someone or something that may be able to provide help : someone or something that gives you a reason for hoping ▪ He's our last/best *hope*. ▪ At this point their only *hope* is that someone will offer to buy the company. ▪ What *hope* is there for someone like me?

4 [*count*] : something that is hoped for ▪ All my *hopes* have been fulfilled at last. ▪ Our fondest *hope* is that our children will be happy and healthy. ▪ We all have *hopes* and dreams for the future. ▪ We have great *hopes* for the coming year.

fix your hopes on/upon see [1]FIX

in (the) hope of/that *or* ***in hopes of/that*** : with the hope that something will happen or could happen ▪ He returned to the crime scene *in (the) hope of* finding further evidence. ▪ He waited *in hopes that* she would show up.

live in hope *chiefly Brit* : to hope for something when you know that it will probably not happen or be true ▪ We *live in hope* that there will be some survivors of the crash.

pin (all) your hopes on see *pin on* at [2]PIN

hope chest *noun, pl* ~ **chests** [*count*] *US, old-fashioned* : a chest or box in which a young woman keeps things (such as silverware and linen) that she will use after she gets married

[1]hope•ful /'hoʊpfəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : full of hope ▪ The mood is sad rather than *hopeful*. ▪ a *hopeful* message : feeling or showing hope ▪ He was *hopeful* that things would get better soon. ▪ I still feel *hopeful* about the future. ▪ She is *hopeful* of winning the race. ▪ a *hopeful* tone of voice

2 : giving someone feelings of hope ▪ There are *hopeful* signs that the crisis may end soon. ▪ The movie has a *hopeful* ending. ▪ Investigators report that there have been some *hopeful* developments in the case.

– hope•ful•ness *noun* [*noncount*]

[2]hopeful *noun, pl* **-fuls** [*count*] : a person who hopes to do something ▪ a presidential *hopeful* [=a person who hopes to become president] ▪ young *hopefuls* in Hollywood

hope•ful•ly /'hoʊpfəli/ *adv*

1 : in a hopeful manner ▪ They gazed up at us *hopefully*.

2 : it is hoped : I hope : we hope ▪ *Hopefully*, it won't rain tomorrow. [=I hope that it won't rain tomorrow] ▪ *Hopefully* things will get better soon.

hope•less /'hoʊpləs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : having or feeling no hope ▪ He felt confused and *hopeless* after losing his job.

2 a *always used before a noun* : unable to be changed ▪ She's a *hopeless* romantic. **b** *informal* : unable to be helped or improved : very bad ▪ We were the most *hopeless* group of golfers you ever saw. ▪ We were *hopeless* at (playing) golf.

3 : giving no reason for hope ▪ a *hopeless* situation ▪ He's very ill, but his condition isn't *hopeless*.

4 : unable to be solved or done : IMPOSSIBLE ▪ a *hopeless* problem/task

– hope•less•ly /'hoʊpləsli/ *adv* ▪ He stared *hopelessly* out the window. — used especially to add force to a statement ▪ He's a *hopelessly* naive person. ▪ She was *hopelessly* addicted to tobacco. ▪ They fell *hopelessly* in love. **– hope•less•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ feelings of *hopelessness*

hopped–up /'hɑ:pt'ʌp/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *US, informal*

1 : showing or feeling the effects of a drug ▪ a *hopped-up* addict ▪ She was *hopped-up* on morphine.

2 : very energetic or excited ▪ *hopped-up* music ▪ The cast was *hopped-up* on opening night.

3 : having more than usual power ▪ a *hopped-up* [=*souped up*] engine

hop•per /'hɑ:pɚ/ *noun, pl* **-pers**

1 [*count*] : someone or something that hops ▪ (*informal*) a jolt *hopper* [=someone who keeps changing jobs] ▪ The third baseman caught a *hopper*. [=a ball that bounced on the ground]

2 [*count*] : a container that is used for pouring material (such as grain or coal) into a machine or opening

3 *the hopper* *US* **a** : a box that bills are put into before they are considered by a legislature **b** : a mix of things to be considered or done ▪ The company has several new product ideas in *the hopper*.

[1]hop•ping /'hɑ:pɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] *informal* : the activity of going from one place to another place of the same kind — usually used in combination ▪ Every night they went club *hopping*. [=they went to a number of different clubs every night] ▪ gallery-*hopping* ▪ bar-*hopping*

[2]hopping *adj, informal* : very busy or active ▪ The bar was *hopping*. ▪ The boss kept me *hopping* all day.

[3]hopping *adv, informal* : very or extremely — used in the phrase ***hopping mad*** ▪ Many employees are *hopping mad* over the new contract.

hop•py /'hɑ:pi/ *adj* : having the taste or smell of hops ▪ *hoppy* beer/flavor

hops /'hɑ:ps/ *noun* [*plural*] : the dried flowers of a plant that are used to give a bitter flavor to beer and ale

[1]hop•scotch /'hɑ:p,skɑ:tʃ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a child's game in which players hop through a series of squares drawn on the ground

[2]hopscotch *verb* **-scotch•es**; **-scotched**; **-scotch•ing** [*no obj*] *chiefly US, informal* : to move from one place to another ▪ The tour *hopscotched* from city to city. ▪ We *hopscotched* across the country.

horde /'hoɚd/ *noun, pl* **hordes** [*count*] *usually disapproving* : a large group of people ▪ A *horde* of tourists entered the museum. ▪ *Hordes* of reporters were shouting questions.

Do not confuse *horde* with *hoard*.

ho•ri•zon /hə'raɪzn̩/ *noun, pl* **-zons**

1 *the horizon* : the line where the earth or sea seems to meet the sky ▪ We sailed toward *the horizon*. ▪ The sun rose slowly over/above *the* eastern *horizon*. — see color picture on page C7

2 [*count*] **a** : the limit or range of a person's knowledge, understanding, or experience ▪ Reading ***broadens/expands our horizons*** **b** : the limit of what is possible in a particular field or activity ▪ These discoveries have opened up new *horizons* in the field of cancer research.

on the horizon : coming in the near future ▪ Scientists believe that a major breakthrough is *on the horizon*.

hor•i•zon•tal /ˌhorə'zɑ:ntl̩/ *adj* : positioned from side to side rather than up and down : parallel to the ground ▪ a *horizontal* line/beam — compare VERTICAL

– horizontal *noun, pl* **-tals** [*count*] ▪ a design with strong *horizontals* [=horizontal lines or parts] **– hor•i•zon•tal•ly**

/ˌhorəˈzɑːntl̩i/ *adv* ▪ The line extends *horizontally*.

hor•mone /ˈhoəˌmoʊn/ *noun, pl* **-mones** [*count*] : a natural substance that is produced in the body and that influences the way the body grows or develops ▪ sex *hormones* ▪ a *hormone* deficiency
– **hor•mon•al** /hoəˈmoʊnl̩/ *adj* ▪ *hormonal* changes
– **hormonally** *adv* ▪ *hormonally* controlled changes

hormone replacement therapy *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : the use of the hormone estrogen to treat symptoms of menopause

[1]horn /ˈhoən/ *noun, pl* **horns**
1 [*count*] **a** : one of the hard pointed parts that grows on the head of some animals (such as cattle, goats, or sheep) **b** [*count*] : a hard pointed part that grows on the nose of a rhinoceros **c** [*noncount*] : the hard material of which horns are made ▪ utensils made of *horn*
2 [*count*] : something that is shaped like a horn ▪ a saddle *horn*
3 [*count*] **a** : a brass musical instrument (such as a trumpet or trombone) — see also ENGLISH HORN, FRENCH HORN **b** : an instrument made from an animal's horn that is used for music or for producing loud signals
4 [*count*] : a device that makes a loud noise ▪ The driver in the car behind me blew/honked his *horn*. — see picture at CAR
5 ***the horn*** *US slang* : [1]TELEPHONE ▪ When he heard there was trouble, he ***got on the horn*** to the police. [=he phoned the police]
blow your own horn *or* ***toot your own horn*** *US, informal* : to talk about yourself or your achievements especially in a way that shows that you are proud or too proud ▪ We've had a very successful year, and I think we have a right to *blow our own horn* [=(*Brit*) *blow our own trumpet*] a little.
lock horns see [2]LOCK
on the horns of a dilemma : in a situation in which you have to choose between things that are unpleasant or undesirable
pull in your horns *also* ***draw in your horns*** : to begin to behave in a more careful way; *especially* : to spend or invest money more carefully ▪ The bad economic news has caused many investors to *pull in their horns*.
take the bull by the horns see [1]BULL
– **horn•less** /ˈhoənləs/ *adj* ▪ a *hornless* animal

[2]horn *verb* **horns; horned; horn•ing**
horn in [*phrasal verb*] *US, informal* + *usually disapproving* : to add your comment or opinion to a conversation or discussion that you have been listening to ▪ Whenever I start to talk, he always *horns in*. — usually + *on* ▪ He always *horns in on* the conversation.

horned /ˈhoənd/ *adj* : having horns or parts that look like horns ▪ a *horned* dinosaur ▪ *horned* cattle ▪ a *horned* owl [=an owl that has feathers on its head that look like ears or horns]

hor•net /ˈhoənət/ *noun, pl* **-nets** [*count*] : a flying insect that has a powerful sting

hornet's nest *noun* [*singular*]
1 : a situation or place in which there are many dangers ▪ The principal entered the *hornet's nest* of angry parents.
2 : an angry reaction ▪ His comments stirred up a *hornet's nest* of angry opposition and criticism.

horn–rimmed glasses *noun* [*plural*] : eyeglasses with frames made of a plastic that resembles horn (sense 1c)

horn–rims /ˈhoənˌrɪmz/ *noun* [*plural*] : HORN-RIMMED GLASSES

horny /ˈhoəni/ *adj* **horn•i•er; -est** [*also more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : made of horn (sense 1c) or a similar substance ▪ a *horny* growth
2 : hard and tough ▪ *horny* skin
3 *informal* : sexually excited ▪ *horny* teenagers

horo•scope /ˈhorəˌskoʊp/ *noun, pl* **-scopes** [*count*] : advice and future predictions based on the date of a person's birth and the positions of the stars and planets ▪ She checked the newspaper for her *horoscope*.

hor•ren•dous /həˈrɛndəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : very bad or unpleasant : HORRIBLE ▪ *horrendous* crimes ▪ Her taste in clothes is *horrendous*. ▪ a *horrendous* traffic jam
– **hor•ren•dous•ly** *adv*

hor•ri•ble /ˈhorəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : causing horror : very shocking and upsetting ▪ He suffered a *horrible* death. ▪ The crime scene was too *horrible* to describe. ▪ a *horrible* accident
2 : very bad or unpleasant ▪ a *horrible* [=*disgusting*] smell ▪ That was a *horrible* [=*terrible, awful*] movie. ▪ The team had a *horrible* season last year. ▪ He realized that he had made a *horrible* mistake.
– **hor•ri•bly** /ˈhorəbli/ *adv* ▪ He died *horribly*. ▪ He was *horribly* disfigured in the fire. ▪ Something had gone *horribly* wrong.

hor•rid /ˈhorəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : very shocking or bad ▪ People there are living in *horrid* conditions. ▪ a *horrid* [=*horrible*] crime
2 : very unpleasant ▪ The medicine was *horrid*. ▪ He's a *horrid* little man.
– **hor•rid•ly** *adv*

hor•ri•fic /hoəˈrɪfɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : causing horror or shock ▪ a *horrific* crime
– **hor•ri•fic•al•ly** *adv* ▪ a *horrifically* brutal murder ▪ *horrifically* expensive

hor•ri•fy /ˈhorəˌfaɪ/ *verb* **-fies; -fied; -fy•ing** [+ *obj*] : to cause (someone) to feel horror or shock : to greatly upset and shock (someone) ▪ The details of the crime *horrified* the nation. ▪ They were *horrified* by/at the movie's violence.
– **horrified** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ He was *horrified* to realize that his comments had been overheard. ▪ She had a *horrified* look on her face. – **horrifying** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ a *horrifying* experience – **hor•ri•fy•ing•ly** *adv* ▪ a *horrifyingly* brutal crime

[1]hor•ror /ˈhoərəˈ/ *noun, pl* **-rors**
1 [*noncount*] : a very strong feeling of fear, dread, and shock ▪ There was a look of *horror* on her face. ▪ He saw ***to his horror*** that he couldn't escape. [=he was horrified to see that he couldn't escape] ▪ The crowd watched ***in horror*** as the fire spread.
2 [*noncount*] : the quality of something that causes feelings of fear, dread, and shock : the horrible or shocking quality or character *of* something ▪ His friends were shocked by the *horror of* his death. ▪ the *horror of* war
3 : something that causes feelings of fear, dread, and shock : something that is shocking and horrible [*count*] His crimes were unspeakable *horrors*. ▪ His memoirs recount the *horrors* of the war. [*noncount*] tales of *horror*
4 [*count*] *chiefly Brit, informal* : a child who behaves very badly ▪ Their children are perfect little *horrors*!
have a horror of : to have a strong dislike for or fear of (something) ▪ Some students seem to *have a horror of* using the dictionary. ▪ Like many teenagers, she *has a horror of* being seen in public with her parents. ▪ He *has a horror of* being caught unprepared.
horror of horrors *informal* + *humorous* — used to describe something as shocking or horrible ▪ There was no television at the cabin, so—*horror of horrors*!—we had to spend the evenings reading books and playing board games.
shock horror see [3]SHOCK

[2]horror *adj, always used before a noun* : intended to cause feelings of fear or horror ▪ a *horror* movie ▪ He writes *horror* novels.

horror show *noun, pl* ~ **shows** [*count*] *informal* : something that is difficult to deal with or watch because it is so bad, unpleasant, etc. ▪ The trial has been a *horror show*.

horror story *noun, pl* ~ **-ries** [*count*] *informal*
1 : a story about an actual event or experience that is very unpleasant ▪ We've all heard *horror stories* about airlines losing people's luggage.
2 : an experience that is very unpleasant ▪ Her childhood was a *horror story*.

hors d'oeuvre /oəˈdəv/ *noun, pl* **hors d'oeuvres** [*count*] : a food served in small portions before the main part of a meal ▪ a tray of assorted *hors d'oeuvres*

[1]horse /ˈhoəs/ *noun, pl* **hors•es**
1 [*count*] : a large animal that is used for riding and for carrying and pulling things ▪ ride/mount a *horse* — often used before another noun ▪ a *horse* farm ▪ *horse* people [=people who raise or have a special interest in horses] — compare COLT, FILLY, FOAL, GELDING, MARE, PONY, STALLION; see also QUARTER HORSE, RACEHORSE, WORKHORSE
2 [*count*] **a** : a frame used to support a piece of wood while it is being cut with a saw : SAWHORSE **b** : a large piece of equipment used in gymnastics : POMMEL HORSE
3 ***horses*** [*plural*] *informal* **a** *US* : HORSEPOWER ▪ a car with 275 *horses* **b** ***the horses*** : horse races ▪ He lost a lot of money on *the horses*.
4 [*count*] *US, informal* : an athlete who is strong and who helps a team to win — usually plural ▪ a team with the *horses* to win the pennant [=a team with the good players needed to win the pennant]

H

a horse of a different color *chiefly US, informal* : a very different thing or issue ▪ That's what we'll do when he gets here. But if he doesn't show up . . . well, that's *a horse of a different color*.

beat a dead horse (*chiefly US*) *or* ***flog a dead horse*** *informal* **1** : to keep talking about a subject that has already been discussed or decided ▪ I don't mean to *beat a dead horse*, but I still don't understand what happened. **2** : to waste time and effort trying to do something that is impossible ▪ Is it just *beating a dead horse* to ask for another recount of the votes?

change horses in midstream : to choose a different leader or policy during a time when serious problems are being dealt with ▪ a politician whose slogan for reelection is "Don't *change horses in midstream*"

eat a horse *informal* ✧ Someone who is very hungry can be described as being hungry enough to *eat a horse*. ▪ I didn't eat today and now I'm so hungry I could *eat a horse*.

from the horse's mouth *informal, of information* : from the original source or person and therefore thought to be true ▪ I know it's hard to believe but I heard it (straight) *from the horse's mouth*.

hold your horses *informal* — used to tell someone to slow down, stop, or wait for a short time ▪ "Hurry up. We need to get going." "*Hold your horses*. I'll be ready in a minute."

look a gift horse in the mouth : to look in a critical way at something that has been given to you ▪ I noticed the guitar wasn't made of real wood, but I didn't say anything because you shouldn't *look a gift horse in the mouth*.

put the cart before the horse see [1]CART

the wrong horse ✧ If you choose/pick/back (etc.) *the wrong horse*, you choose or support someone or something that is not successful. ▪ The company has been losing money, and many investors are beginning to feel that they may have backed *the wrong horse*.

– see also CHARLEY HORSE, DARK HORSE, HIGH HORSE, HOBBYHORSE, ONE-HORSE, ROCKING HORSE, SEA HORSE, STALKING HORSE, TROJAN HORSE

[2]horse *verb* **horses; horsed; hors·ing**

horse around *or Brit* ***horse about*** [*phrasal verb*] *informal* : to play in a rough or loud way : to engage in horseplay ▪ They were *horsing around* instead of studying. ▪ He *horsed around* with the kids for a while.

[1]horse·back /'hoəs,bæk/ *noun*

on horseback : on the back of a horse ▪ Before the invention of the automobile, people often traveled *on horseback*. [=they traveled by riding horses]

[2]horseback *adj, always used before a noun* : on the back of a horse ▪ a ***horseback rider*** [=a person riding on a horse] ▪ Do you enjoy ***horseback riding***? [=the activity of riding horses]

– **horseback** *adv, chiefly US* ▪ riding *horseback*

horse chestnut *noun, pl* ~ **-nuts** [*count*] : a tree with flowers that grow in large bunches and large brown seeds; *also* : the seed of a horse chestnut tree

horse–drawn *adj* : pulled by a horse or by a group of horses ▪ a *horse-drawn* carriage

horse·feath·ers /'hoəs,fɛðəz/ *noun* [*noncount*] *US, old-fashioned slang* : foolish or untrue words : NONSENSE ▪ He thought the story was a lot of *horsefeathers*.

horse·fly /'hoəs,flaɪ/ *noun, pl* **-flies** [*count*] : a type of large biting fly

horse·hair /'hoəs,heə/ *noun* [*noncount*] : hair from the mane or tail of a horse

– **horsehair** *adj* ▪ *horsehair* fabric ▪ a *horsehair* couch/sofa [=a couch/sofa filled with horsehair]

horse laugh *noun, pl* ~ **laughs** [*count*] *informal* : a loud laugh

horse·man /'hoəsmən/ *noun, pl* **-men** /-mən/ [*count*]

1 : a person (especially a man) who rides horses ▪ a skillful *horseman*

2 : a person (especially a man) who breeds or raises horses — compare HORSEWOMAN

– **horse·man·ship** /'hoəsmən,ʃɪp/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ a camp where children learn *horsemanship* [=learn how to ride horses]

horse opera *noun, pl* ~ **-eras** [*count*] *chiefly US, old-fashioned* : [2]WESTERN ▪ the star of many *horse operas*

horse·play /'hoəs,pleɪ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : rough or loud play : energetic and noisy playful activity ▪ The lamp got broken when the kids were engaging in a little *horseplay*.

horse·pow·er /'hoəs,pawə/ *noun, pl* **horsepower** : a unit used to measure the power of engines [*noncount*] We need an engine with greater/more *horsepower*. [=a more powerful engine] [*count*] an engine with 200 *horsepower* — often used figuratively ▪ intellectual *horsepower*

horse race *noun, pl* ~ **races** [*count*]

1 : an event in which horses race and people bet on which horse will win

2 *chiefly US* : a close contest ▪ The election is sure to become a *horse race* by early summer.

– **horse·rac·ing** /'hoəs,reɪsɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ He lost a lot of money betting on *horseracing*.

horse·rad·ish /'hoəs,rædɪʃ/ *noun, pl* **-ish·es**

1 [*count*] : a tall plant whose root is used for making a sauce

2 [*noncount*] : a strong sauce made from the root of the horseradish plant — often used before another noun ▪ a spicy *horseradish* sauce

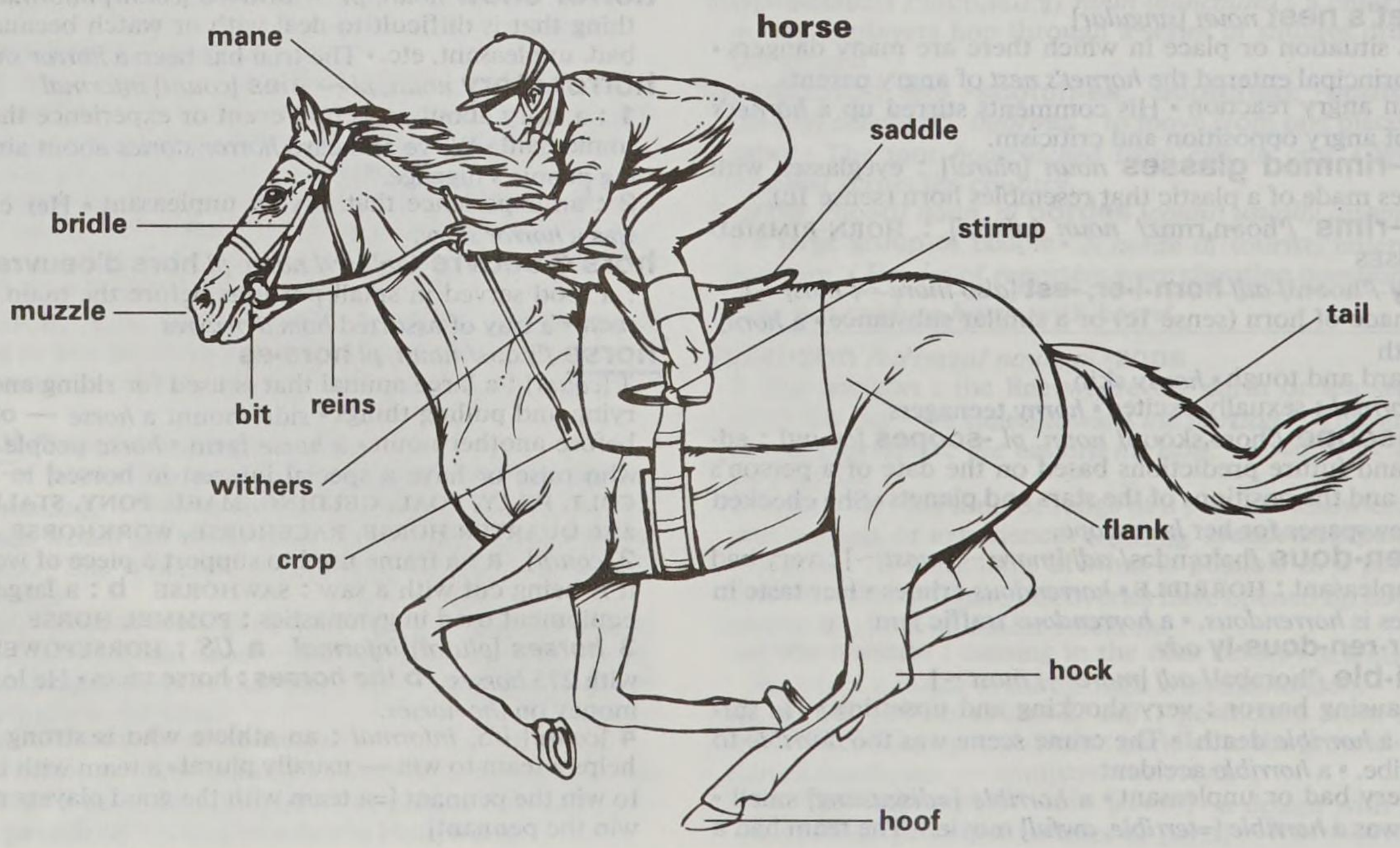
horse's ass *noun, pl* ~ **asses** [*count*] *US, informal + impolite* : a very stupid or foolish person : ASS ▪ She angrily told him to stop acting like a *horse's ass*.

horse sense *noun* [*noncount*] *informal* : the ability to make good judgments or decisions : common sense ▪ He credits his success to good old-fashioned *horse sense*.

horse·shit /'hoəs,ʃɪt/ *noun* [*noncount*] *US, informal + offensive* : NONSENSE, BULLSHIT

horse·shoe /'hoəs,ʃu:/ *noun, pl* **-shoes**

horse



1 [*count*] **a** : a U-shaped band of iron nailed to the bottom of a horse's hoof as a shoe **b** : something shaped like a horseshoe ▪ The lake was a *horseshoe* surrounded by tall pine trees.



horseshoe

2 *horseshoes* [*plural*] *US* : a game in which players try to get horseshoes around a stake in the ground by throwing them at the stake from a certain distance

horse show *noun, pl* ~ **shows** [*count*] : an event where people bring horses to compete against one another

horse trade *noun, pl* ~ **trades** [*count*] : a clever and often secret agreement made by powerful people who are usually trying to get an advantage over others ▪ a political *horse trade* – **horse trader** *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] ▪ a politician who is known as a clever *horse trader* – **horse trading** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ political *horse trading*

horse·whip /'hoəs,wɪp/ *verb* **-whips**; **-whipped**; **-whip·ping** [+ *obj*] : to hit (someone) with a whip ▪ He thinks that any government official who steals public money should be *horsewhipped*.

horse·wom·an /'hoəs,wʊmən/ *noun, pl* **-wom·en** /-,wɪmən/ [*count*]
1 : a woman who rides horses
2 : a woman who breeds or manages horses — compare HORSEMAN

hors·ey *or* **horsy** /'hoəsi/ *adj* **hors·i·er**; **-est**
1 : of, relating to, or involved with horses ▪ *horsey* people [=people who own or are interested in horses] ▪ a *horsey* family
2 : suggesting a horse or horses ▪ a *horsey* face

hor·ti·cul·ture /'hoətə,kʌlʧəˑ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the science of growing fruits, vegetables, and flowers — compare AGRICULTURE – **hor·ti·cul·tur·al** /,hoətə'kʌlʧərəl/ *adj* ▪ *horticultural* books – **hor·ti·cul·tur·ist** /,hoətə'kʌlʧərɪst/ *or chiefly Brit* **hor·ti·cul·tur·al·ist** /,hoətə'kʌlʧrəlɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] ▪ They had several *horticulturists* on staff to care for the orchard.

ho·san·na /hoʊ'zænə, hoʊ'zɑːnə/ *noun, pl* **-nas** [*count*] : an expression of enthusiastic praise ▪ The book was met with hearty *hosannas* from literary critics. [=literary critics praised the book enthusiastically] — sometimes used as an interjection ▪ *Hosanna* in the highest!

[1]hose /'hoʊz/ *noun*
1 *pl* **hos·es** : a long, usually rubber tube that liquids or gases can flow through [*count*] There are several *hoses* stored in the shed. ▪ a ***fire hose*** [=a hose used to spray water on a fire] ▪ a ***garden hose*** [=a hose used to water a garden] [*noncount*] We need another 50 feet of *hose*. — see pictures at GARDENING, SCUBA DIVING
2 *hose* [*plural*] : clothes (such as stockings, socks, and pantyhose) that are worn on the legs and feet ▪ women's *hose* — called also *hosiery*

[2]hose *verb* **hos·es**; **hosed**; **hos·ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to spray or wash (something) with water from a hose — usually + *down* or *off* ▪ At the end of the day he *hosed down/off* the sidewalk outside his shop.
2 *US slang* : to cheat or trick (someone) ▪ We got *hosed*.

hose·pipe /'hoʊz,paɪp/ *noun, pl* **-pipes** [*count*] *Brit* : [1]HOSE 1

ho·siery /'hoʊʒəri, *Brit* 'həʊzjəri/ *noun* [*noncount*] : [1]HOSE 2 ▪ a shop that sells *hosiery*

hos·pice /'hɑːspəs/ *noun, pl* **-pic·es** [*count*]
1 : a place that provides care for people who are dying ▪ She chose to go to a *hospice* instead of a hospital. — often used before another noun ▪ He was placed in *hospice* care for the last three months of his life. ▪ a *hospice* program
2 *somewhat old-fashioned* : a place where travelers can stay : INN; *especially* : an inn kept by people in a religious organization

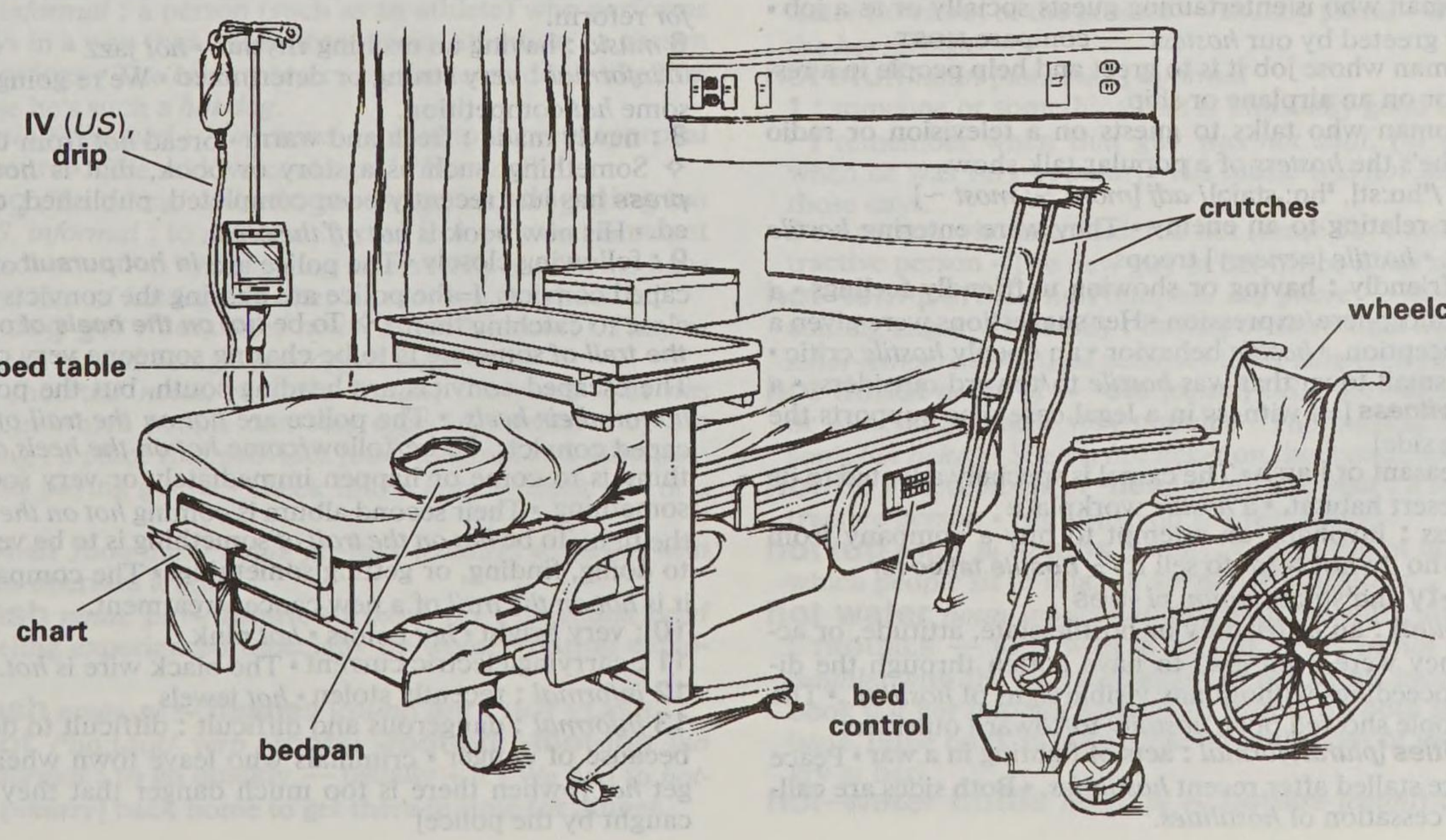
hos·pi·ta·ble /hɑ'spɪtəbəl, 'hɑːspɪtəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : generous and friendly to guests or visitors ▪ The people of that country are very *hospitable*. — often + *to* ▪ They were very *hospitable to* their guests. — opposite INHOSPITABLE
2 : having an environment where plants, animals, or people can live or grow easily ▪ It's a hearty plant that grows in even the least *hospitable* climates. ▪ elderly people moving to Florida for its *hospitable* climate — often + *to* ▪ The climate here is *hospitable to* many species. — opposite INHOSPITABLE
3 : ready or willing to accept or consider something — usually + *to* ▪ a person/company known for being *hospitable* [=*open*] *to* new ideas
– **hos·pi·ta·bly** /hɑ'spɪtəbli, 'hɑːspɪtəbli/ *adv* ▪ Their guests are always treated *hospitably*.

hos·pi·tal /'hɑːspɪtl/ *noun, pl* **-tals** [*count*] : a place where sick or injured people are given care or treatment and where children are often born ▪ (*US*) She's in the *hospital*. = (*Brit*) She's in *hospital*. ▪ (*US*) She was admitted to the *hospital* yesterday. = (*Brit*) She was admitted to *hospital* yesterday. [=she was hospitalized yesterday] ▪ (*US*) She'll be discharged from the *hospital* tomorrow. = (*Brit*) She'll be discharged from *hospital* tomorrow. — often used before another noun ▪ *hospital* beds ▪ a *hospital* gown

hos·pi·tal·i·ty /,hɑːspə'tæləti/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : generous and friendly treatment of visitors and guests : hospitable treatment ▪ It was refreshing to be met with such *hospitality* after our long journey.
2 : the activity of providing food, drinks, etc. for people who are the guests or customers of an organization — often used before another noun ▪ a job in the *hospitality* business/industry ▪ entertaining potential clients in a ***hospitality suite***

hos·pi·tal·ize *also Brit* **hos·pi·tal·ise** /'hɑːspɪtə,laɪz/ *verb* **-iz·es**; **-ized**; **-iz·ing** [+ *obj*] : to place (someone) in a hospi-

hospital



tal for care or treatment ▪ The doctor wants to *hospitalize* her for a few days so that he can run some tests. — usually used as *(be) hospitalized* ▪ He *was hospitalized* after the accident.
– **hos•pi•tal•i•za•tion** *also Brit* **hos•pi•tal•i•sa•tion** /ˌhɑːspɪtələˈzeɪʃən, *Brit* ˌhɑːspɪtəˌlaɪˈzeɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*] He was released after a brief *hospitalization*. [*noncount*] Her injuries were not serious enough to require *hospitalization*.

[1]host /ˈhoʊst/ *noun, pl* **hosts** [*count*]
1 : a person (especially a man) who is entertaining guests socially or as a job ▪ We were greeted at the front door by our *host*. — compare HOSTESS
2 : a person who talks to guests on a television or radio show ▪ He/she is the *host* of the talk show. ▪ a game-show *host*
3 : an animal or plant in which another animal or plant lives and gets its food or protection ▪ A tick can often carry diseases, making it a danger to its *hosts*. ▪ a human *host* — compare PARASITE 1
play host to ✧ A place or organization that *plays host to* an event (such as a meeting or convention) provides the things that are needed for that event. ▪ Each year, the city *plays host to* [=*hosts*] the film festival for one week. ▪ The mall was *playing host to* [=*hosting*] an auto show.
– compare [3]HOST

[2]host *verb* **hosts; host•ed; host•ing** [+ *obj*] : to be the host for (a social event, a group of people, etc.) ▪ He/she is going to *host* the music awards. ▪ They *hosted* a dinner party on Saturday.

[3]host *noun, pl* **hosts** [*count*] : a great amount or number ▪ a (whole) *host* of options — compare [1]HOST

Host /ˈhoʊst/ *noun*
the Host : a round, thin piece of bread used in the Christian Communion ceremony

hos•tage /ˈhɑːstɪʤ/ *noun, pl* **-tag•es** [*count*] : a person who is captured by someone who demands that certain things be done before the captured person is freed ▪ The terrorists demanded a plane and a pilot in exchange for the *hostages*. ▪ The *hostage* crisis is now entering its second week. ▪ The passengers were ***taken hostage***. ▪ They were ***held hostage*** for several days. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ a neighborhood being *held hostage* to fear [=a neighborhood controlled or dominated by fear]
a hostage to fortune ✧ In British English, *a hostage to fortune* is something (such as a promise or an action) that someone has made or done that may cause problems in the future. In U.S. English, this phrase is much less common and is usually understood to mean a person whose future success or failure is controlled by luck or fortune.

hos•tel /ˈhɑːstl̩/ *noun, pl* **-tels** [*count*]
1 : an inexpensive place for usually young travelers to stay overnight — called also *youth hostel*
2 *Brit* : a shelter for homeless people

hos•tel•ry /ˈhɑːstl̩ri/ *noun, pl* **-ries** [*count*] *old-fashioned* : an inn, pub, or hotel

host•ess /ˈhoʊstəs/ *noun, pl* **-ess•es** [*count*]
1 : a woman who is entertaining guests socially or as a job ▪ We were greeted by our *hostess*. — compare HOST
2 : a woman whose job it is to greet and help people in a restaurant or on an airplane or ship
3 : a woman who talks to guests on a television or radio show ▪ She's the *hostess* of a popular talk show.

hos•tile /ˈhɑːstl̩, ˈhɑːˌstajəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : of or relating to an enemy ▪ They were entering *hostile* territory. ▪ *hostile* [=*enemy*] troops
2 : not friendly : having or showing unfriendly feelings ▪ a *hostile* atmosphere/expression ▪ Her suggestions were given a *hostile* reception. ▪ *hostile* behavior ▪ an openly *hostile* critic ▪ It was a small town that was *hostile* to/toward outsiders. ▪ a ***hostile witness*** [=a witness in a legal case who supports the opposing side]
3 : unpleasant or harsh ▪ The camel is specially adapted to its *hostile* desert habitat. ▪ a *hostile* workplace
4 *business* : involving an attempt to buy a company from people who do not want to sell it ▪ a ***hostile takeover***

hos•til•i•ty /hɑˈstɪləti/ *noun, pl* **-ties**
1 [*noncount*] : an unfriendly or hostile state, attitude, or action ▪ They were both glad to have gotten through the divorce proceedings without any visible signs of *hostility*. ▪ The townspeople showed open *hostility* to/toward outsiders.
2 ***hostilities*** [*plural*] *formal* : acts of fighting in a war ▪ Peace talks were stalled after recent *hostilities*. ▪ Both sides are calling for a cessation of *hostilities*.

[1]hot /ˈhɑːt/ *adj* **hot•ter; hot•test**
1 a : having a high temperature ▪ *hot* August nights ▪ *hot* and humid weather ▪ taking a *hot* bath/shower ▪ a *hot* climate/country ▪ It is/gets *hot* in the summer and cold in the winter. ▪ The baked potatoes were too *hot* to handle with our bare hands. ▪ We worked all afternoon in/under the *hot* sun. ▪ The chicken was fried in *hot* oil. ▪ Your forehead feels *hot*. I think you might have a fever. ▪ a blazing/sizzling/steaming *hot* afternoon ▪ boiling/burning/fiery *hot* — see also RED-HOT, WHITE-HOT **b** : having a feeling of high body heat ▪ I was feeling *hot* and tired. **c** *of food or drink* : heated to a hot or warm temperature : served at a hot or warm temperature ▪ *hot* cereal ▪ a *hot* meal ▪ a selection of *hot* beverages — see also PIPING HOT
2 *informal* **a** : currently liked or wanted by many people ▪ The new toys are so *hot* that stores can't keep them in stock. ▪ a *hot* new restaurant ▪ He's considered a *hot* [=*appealing, desirable*] prospect. : currently very active or strong ▪ Her new book is a *hot* seller. ▪ She spoke about the latest *hot* trends in the computer industry. : currently causing a lot of interest or discussion ▪ reporters pursuing a *hot* story ▪ a *hot* concept/idea ▪ His decision has been a *hot* topic of conversation. ✧ Something or someone that is a ***hot commodity/item/property*** is currently very valuable or popular. ▪ Exotic mushrooms are a *hot commodity*. ▪ The success of her latest movie has made her a *hot property* in Hollywood. ▪ Computer games are a *hot item* in stores this year. **b** : very good — usually used in negative statements ▪ I don't think that's such a *hot* idea. [=I don't think it's a good idea] ▪ He came home early because he wasn't feeling too *hot*. [=he wasn't feeling well] ▪ Things aren't looking so *hot* at this point. **c** : having a period of unusual success or good luck ▪ The team has been *hot* recently. = The team has recently been on a ***hot streak***. [=the team has been winning a lot recently] ▪ ***When you're hot, you're hot***. [=when you are having good luck, you keep winning or succeeding repeatedly]
3 a : marked by anger or strong feelings ▪ a *hot* [=*heated*] argument ▪ His decision has been a topic of *hot* debate. ▪ This is an area of *hot* dispute. ✧ An issue or topic that is ***too hot to handle*** causes so much anger or controversy that people avoid discussing or dealing with it. **b** *always used before a noun* : easily excited or angered ▪ He's known for his *hot* [=*bad*] temper. **c** : ANGRY ▪ He was starting to get pretty *hot* about the delays. ▪ You shouldn't allow these little delays to get you all ***hot and bothered***. [=to make you angry and upset] — see also HOT UNDER THE COLLAR (below)
4 *of food* : having a spicy or peppery flavor ▪ *hot* chilis ▪ *hot* sauce/mustard ▪ Do you prefer your curry *hot* or mild?
5 *informal* **a** : sexually excited by or interested in someone — + *for* ▪ Everyone knows she's *hot for* the new guy in her office. **b** : sexually attractive ▪ The girl he's dating is really *hot*. ▪ He was voted the *hottest* [=*sexiest*] actor in Hollywood. **c** : exciting in a sexual or romantic way ▪ He's nervous because he has a ***hot date*** tonight. **d** *of sex* : very intense or exciting ▪ *hot* sex **e** : EAGER — usually followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ She's *hot to party*. — sometimes + *for* ▪ The students are *hot for* reform.
6 *music* : having an exciting rhythm ▪ *hot* jazz
7 *informal* : very strong or determined ▪ We're going to face some *hot* competition.
8 : newly made : fresh and warm ▪ bread *hot* from the oven ✧ Something, such as a story or book, that is ***hot off the press*** has just recently been completed, published, or printed. ▪ His new book is *hot off the press*.
9 : following closely ▪ The police are ***in hot pursuit*** of the escaped convicts. [=the police are chasing the convicts and are close to catching them] ✧ To be ***hot on the heels of*** or ***hot on the trail of*** someone is to be chasing someone very closely. ▪ The escaped convicts are heading south, but the police are *hot on their heels*. ▪ The police are *hot on the trail of* the escaped convicts. To be/follow/come *hot on the heels of* something is to come or happen immediately or very soon after something. ▪ Their second album is coming *hot on the heels of* the first. To be *hot on the trail of* something is to be very close to doing, finding, or getting something. ▪ The company says it is *hot on the trail* of a new cancer treatment.
10 : very bright ▪ *hot* colors ▪ *hot* pink
11 : carrying electric current ▪ The black wire is *hot*.
12 *informal* : recently stolen ▪ *hot* jewels
13 *informal* : dangerous and difficult : difficult to deal with because of danger ▪ criminals who leave town when things get *hot* [=when there is too much danger that they will be caught by the police]

blow hot and cold see [1]BLOW
hot and heavy *informal* : sexually intense, active, or exciting ▪ They have a very *hot and heavy* relationship.
hot on *informal* : strongly favoring or liking (something) ▪ The company president is very *hot on* [=*big on*] the idea of developing new products.
hot tip *informal* : a valuable piece of information about something (such as the stock market or a horse race) that can help someone get money or an advantage
hot to trot *informal* : very eager to have sex ▪ a movie about a couple of college students who are *hot to trot*
hot under the collar *informal* : angry or upset ▪ He tends to get a little *hot under the collar* when his wife keeps him waiting.
like a hot knife through butter see [1]KNIFE
strike while the iron is hot see [1]STRIKE
– **hot•ly** *adv* ▪ a *hotly* contested election ▪ a *hotly* debated issue ▪ He *hotly* denied any involvement in the controversy.
– **hot•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *hotness* [=*spiciness*] of the pepper

[2]hot *verb* **hots**; **hot•ted**; **hot•ting**
hot up [*phrasal verb*] *Brit* : to become more intense or lively ▪ The controversy has *hotted up* [=*heated up*] again.

hot air *noun* [*noncount*] *informal* : talk that is meant to sound important but does not mean very much ▪ She's full of *hot air*.

hot–air balloon *noun, pl* ~ **-loons** [*count*] : a large balloon that is filled with heated air and that floats in the sky with a basket underneath for people to ride in

hot•bed /ˈhɑːtˌbɛd/ *noun, pl* **-beds** [*count*] : a place where something grows or develops easily : a place where something happens very commonly ▪ The neighborhood has become a *hotbed* of crime. [=a place where many crimes occur] ▪ a *hotbed* of research ▪ a *hotbed* of political unrest

hot–blood•ed /ˈhɑːtˈblʌdəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : becoming angry or excited very easily ▪ a *hot-blooded* young man

hot button *noun, pl* ~ **-tons** [*count*] : an issue that causes people to feel strong emotions (such as anger) and to argue with each other ▪ The film is considered very controversial for all the *hot buttons* it pushes. ▪ a political *hot button*
– **hot–button** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ The budget is a real *hot-button* issue right now.

hot•cake /ˈhɑːtˌkeɪk/ *noun, pl* **-cakes** [*count*] *chiefly US* : PANCAKE
like hotcakes *informal* : at a very fast rate : very quickly ▪ The new record is selling/going *like hotcakes*.

hot chocolate *noun, pl* ~ **-lates** [*count, noncount*] : a hot drink that is chocolate-flavored ▪ a cup of *hot chocolate* — called also *hot cocoa*

hotch•potch /ˈhɑːʧˌpɑːʧ/ *noun* [*singular*] *Brit* : HODGEPODGE

hot dog /ˈhɑːtˌdɑːg/ *noun, pl* ~ **dogs** [*count*]
1 : a small cooked sausage that is mild in flavor and is usually served in a long roll (called a hot dog bun)
2 *US, informal* : a person (such as an athlete) who performs or plays in a way that is meant to attract attention : a person who hotdogs ▪ The other players on the team don't like him because he's such a *hot dog*.
3 *US, old-fashioned + humorous* — used to express approval or pleasure ▪ "She said we could go!" "*Hot dog*!"

hot•dog /ˈhɑːtˌdɑːg/ *verb* **-dogs**; **-dogged**; **-dog•ging** [*no obj*] *US, informal* : to perform or play in a way that is meant to attract attention ▪ *hotdogging* skiers ▪ His opponents have accused him of *hotdogging* after he scores a touchdown.
– **hot•dog•ger** /ˈhɑtˌdɑgɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ They've accused him of being a *hotdogger*. [=*hot dog*]

ho•tel /hoʊˈtɛl/ *noun, pl* **-tels** [*count*] : a place that has rooms in which people can stay especially when they are traveling : a place that provides food, lodging, and other services for paying guests ▪ check into a *hotel* ▪ check out of a *hotel*

ho•tel•i•er /hoʊˈtɛljɚ/ *noun, pl* **-iers** [*count*] : a person who owns or operates a hotel

hot flash *noun, pl* ~ **flashes** [*count*] *US* : a sudden brief hot feeling experienced especially by women during menopause

hot flush *noun, pl* ~ **flushes** [*count*] *Brit* : HOT FLASH

hot•foot /ˈhɑːtˌfʊt/ *verb* **-foots**; **-foot•ed**; **-foot•ing** [*no obj*] *informal* : to go quickly — usually + *it* ▪ We had to *hotfoot it* [=*hurry*] back home to get there in time for dinner.

hot•head /ˈhɑːtˌhɛd/ *noun, pl* **-heads** [*count*] *informal* : a person who gets angry easily : a hotheaded person ▪ Working on the project with such a *hothead* has been unpleasant.

hot•head•ed /ˈhɑːtˈhɛdəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *informal* : easily angered ▪ a *hotheaded* boss; *also* : very angry ▪ He wrote a *hot-headed* letter.

hot•house /ˈhɑːtˌhaʊs/ *noun, pl* **-hous•es** [*count*] : a heated building used for growing plants — compare GREENHOUSE
– **hothouse** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ *hothouse* tomatoes [=tomatoes grown in a hothouse]

hot line *noun, pl* ~ **lines** [*count*]
1 : a telephone service for the public to use to get help in emergencies ▪ a suicide prevention *hot line*
2 : a telephone connection that allows leaders of different countries to talk to each other directly and that is always kept ready for use ▪ They set up a *hot line* between Washington and Moscow.

hot pants *noun* [*plural*] : very short and tight shorts for women

hot plate *noun, pl* ~ **plates** [*count*] : a small portable device with a metal plate used for cooking or heating food

hot pot *noun, pl* ~ **pots** [*count, noncount*] *chiefly Brit* : a mixture of meat and vegetables cooked together with liquid in a single pot

hot potato *noun, pl* ~ **-toes** [*count*] *informal* : an issue or question about which people have different opinions and feel very strongly ▪ He tried to avoid taking a strong stand on political *hot potatoes* like abortion.

hot rod *noun, pl* ~ **rods** [*count*] *informal* : a car that has been changed so that it can be driven and raced at very fast speeds

hots /ˈhɑːts/ *noun*
the hots *informal* : strong feelings of sexual attraction *for* someone ▪ Everyone knows she has *the hots for* the new guy in her office. [=she is very attracted to the new guy in her office]

hot seat *noun*
the hot seat : the position of someone who is in trouble or is being asked many difficult or embarrassing questions ▪ When the company ran into financial trouble, it was the accountant who found herself in *the hot seat*.

hot•shot /ˈhɑːtˌʃɑːt/ *noun, pl* **-shots** [*count*] *informal* : a talented and successful person ▪ The company has hired a couple of young *hotshots* to revamp its advertising campaign. : someone who is successful or skillful in a showy or flashy way ▪ That guy thinks he's a real *hotshot*. — often used before another noun ▪ They've hired a *hotshot* lawyer.

hot spot *noun, pl* ~ **spots** [*count*] *informal*
1 : a very popular or active place ▪ The new restaurant is the latest *hot spot* in town. ▪ a vacation *hot spot*
2 : a place where there is much danger or fighting ▪ This part of the country is a *hot spot* of rebel activity. ▪ a global *hot spot* [=an area in the world where war is possible or likely]

hot spring *noun, pl* ~ **springs** [*count*] : a place where hot water flows out of the ground — usually plural ▪ We hiked to the *hot springs*.

hot stuff *noun* [*noncount*] *informal*
1 : someone or something that is unusually good or popular ▪ I remember when that guy was *hot stuff*. [=I remember when he was very popular] ▪ His music was *hot stuff* back in those days.
2 : a person who is considered hot (sense 5b) : a sexually attractive person ▪ The new guy in her office is *hot stuff*.

hot–tem•pered /ˈhɑːtˈtɛmpɚd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : becoming angry very easily : having or showing a hot temper ▪ a *hot-tempered* political activist ▪ a *hot-tempered* reply

hot ticket *noun, pl* ~ **-ets** [*count*] *US, informal* : someone or something that is very popular ▪ The musical is this season's *hot ticket*. ▪ She's a *hot ticket* on the lecture circuit.

hot•tie /ˈhɑːti/ *noun, pl* **-ties** [*count*] *informal* : a sexually attractive person ▪ His girlfriend is a real *hottie*.

hot tub *noun, pl* ~ **tubs** [*count*] : a large tub of hot water in which people sit to relax or spend time together

hot water *noun* [*noncount*] *informal* : a difficult situation : TROUBLE — used with *in* or *into* ▪ He's *in hot water* [=*in trouble*] with the IRS for failing to report his income. ▪ The book got her *into hot water* with people on both sides of the issue. [=the book made people on both sides of the issue angry at her]

hot–water bottle *noun, pl* ~ **bottles** [*count*] : a rubber

container that is filled with hot water and used to warm a bed or a part of your body

hot–wire /ˈhɑːtˌwajɚ/ *verb* **-wires**; **-wired**; **-wir•ing** [+ *obj*] *informal* : to start (a car or the engine of a car) by connecting wires in the electrical system without using a key • His car was stolen when somebody broke a window and *hot-wired* the engine.

[1]hound /ˈhaʊnd/ *noun, pl* **hounds** [*count*]
1 : a dog; *especially* : a type of dog that has a very good sense of smell and is trained to hunt
2 : a person who is very determined to get something especially for a collection : a very enthusiastic collector • autograph *hounds*

[2]hound *verb* **hounds**; **hound•ed**; **hound•ing** [+ *obj*] : to chase or bother (someone or something) in a constant or determined way • He is being *hounded* by the press. • They *hounded* me with questions. • They *hounded* me for my autograph. • *hound* a politician out of office

hour /ˈawɚ/ *noun, pl* **hours**
1 [*count*] : one of the 24 equal parts of a day : 60 minutes • She wasn't supposed to eat for six *hours* before the operation. • You'll be paid by the *hour* for/on this job. • The job pays ten dollars an *hour*. • We've been waiting (for) an *hour*. • She exercises for a full/good/solid *hour* every day. • He practiced the piano for *hours* at a time. = He spent *hours* practicing the piano. • She was half an *hour* late. • They arrived a few *hours* later. • A project like that can take *hours* (to finish). • The project required long/endless *hours* of work. • He spent ***all his waking hours*** [=all of the hours in the day that he was awake] working on the project. • (*Brit*) She has been working ***all the hours God sends***. [=she has been working very long hours] • He's ***counting the hours*** until his retirement. [=he is waiting eagerly for his retirement] • We talked for ***hours and hours***. = We talked for ***hours on end***. = We talked for many *hours*. • She grew more nervous ***with each passing hour***. [=as each hour passed] • The mood changed ***from hour to hour***. — see also HALF HOUR, QUARTER HOUR
2 [*count*] **a** : the time shown on a clock or watch • The *hour* [=*time*] is half past ten. [=10:30] • We arrived just as the clock struck the *hour*. [=we arrived at exactly 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, etc.] • (*US*) The program is scheduled to start ***at the top of the hour***. [=at the beginning of the hour; at 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, etc.] • The next train will leave ***on the hour***. [=at the beginning of the next hour] • Trains leave the station ***every hour on the hour***. [=at the beginning of each hour; at 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, etc.] • Trains leave the station every hour at ten minutes ***before the hour***. [=trains leave at 12:50 (10 minutes to one), 1:50 (ten minutes to two), etc.] • Trains leave every hour at ten minutes ***past the hour***. = (*chiefly US*) Trains leave every hour at ten minutes ***after the hour***. [=trains leave at 1:10, 2:10, etc.] **b** : a particular time during the day • a late *hour* • What are you doing here at this *hour*? [=why are you here at such a late hour?] • at the midnight *hour* [=at midnight] • These animals are most active in the *hour* just before sunrise. • You can call me at any *hour* of the day or night. • People began arriving in the early *hours* of the morning. • The park is open during daylight *hours*. • We arrived at ***the appointed hour***. [=we arrived at the time that had been agreed upon] • They serve breakfast ***at all hours***. = They serve breakfast at any *hour*. [=at any time of day] • These animals are active *at all hours* of the day. [=throughout the day] • They were up ***till/until all hours***. [=they were up very late] • The store is open ***twenty-four hours a day***. [=the store is open all day and night] ✧ The ***wee/small/early hours*** are the very early hours of the morning. • They studied into the *wee hours*. • The negotiations lasted into the *small hours* (of the morning).
3 a [*count*] : the time of a specified activity • She likes to go for a walk during her lunch *hour*. • the breakfast/dinner *hour* • the cocktail *hour* — see also ELEVENTH HOUR, HAPPY HOUR, RUSH HOUR, ZERO HOUR **b** [*count*] : a particular time or period of time • The ***hour of reckoning*** had come. [=the moment of truth had come; the time when something would be decided had come] • They helped us in our ***hour of need***. [=the time when we were most in need of help] ✧ The ***man/woman (etc.) of the hour*** is a person who is being honored or praised or who is enjoying success at a particular time. • The success of his latest film has made him the *man of the hour* in Hollywood. ✧ Someone's or something's ***darkest hour*** is a time of great trouble or danger. • They helped us in our *darkest hour*. ✧ Someone's or something's ***finest hour*** is a time of great success, courage, or heroism. • The troops triumphed in our country's *finest hour*. **c** ***hours*** [*plural*] : a time scheduled or used for a particular purpose or activity • School *hours* are from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. • She works regular/normal *hours*. [=she works a regular schedule; she works during the day on Monday through Friday] • She has been working longer *hours*. [=she has been working for more hours than usual each day] • ***Visiting hours*** on this hospital ward are between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. • Personal phone calls are not allowed during ***business/office hours***. • He enjoys reading and relaxing in his ***off hours***. [=the time when he is not working] • We ***keep early hours*** out here in the country. [=we go to bed early] • She has been ***keeping late hours*** at the office. [=she has been working late]
4 [*count*] : the distance that can be traveled in an hour • She lives two *hours* away. • Her house is two *hours* north of here. • Her house is two *hours'* drive from here. = Her house is a two-*hour* drive from here.
5 *hours* [*plural*] — used to refer to time when time is being measured on a 24-hour clock • In the military, 4:00 p.m. is called 1600 *hours*.
after hours *or Brit* ***out of hours*** : after the regular hours of work or operation • The professor gave out his phone number so students could reach him *after hours*.
an/per hour — used in measurements that describe the speed of something • The speed limit is 65 miles *per hour*. • a fastball thrown at 88 miles *an hour*

hour•glass /ˈawɚˌglæs, *Brit* ˈawəˌglɑːs/ *noun, pl* **-glass•es** [*count*] : a device for measuring time ✧ An hourglass is a glass container with an upper part and a lower part connected by a narrow opening. The upper part contains sand which flows into the lower part in a specified amount of time (such as an hour).
– **hourglass** *adj, always used before a noun* • an *hourglass* shape

hour hand *noun, pl* ~ **hands** [*count*] : the short hand that marks the hours on a watch or clock — compare MINUTE HAND, SECOND HAND

hour•ly /ˈawɚli/ *adj*
1 : happening every hour • *hourly* bus service
2 a : paid for one hour of work • an *hourly* wage [=an amount paid for each hour of work] **b** : paid by the hour : earning an hourly wage • *hourly* workers
– **hourly** *adv* • The news was updated *hourly*. [=every hour]

[1]house /ˈhaʊs/ *noun, pl* **hous•es** /ˈhaʊzəz/
1 a [*count*] : a building in which a family lives • Would you like to come to my *house* for dinner? • a two-family *house* • I spent the weekend just puttering around the *house*. — often used before another noun • *house* pets/plants • a *house* guest • *house* parties **b** [*singular*] : the people who live in a house • He made enough noise to wake the whole *house*.
2 [*count*] **a** : a structure or shelter in which animals are kept — see also BIRDHOUSE, DOGHOUSE, HENHOUSE **b** : a building in which something is stored • a carriage *house* — see also BOATHOUSE, WAREHOUSE
3 [*count*] : a building where students or members of a religious group live • a fraternity *house*
4 a [*count*] : a group of people who meet to discuss and make the laws of a country • The bill has been approved by both *houses* of Congress. • The two *houses* of the U.S. Congress are the Senate [=the upper house] and the House of Representatives. [=the lower house] • The two *houses* of the British Parliament are the House of Lords [=the upper house] and the House of Commons. [=the lower house] **b** ***the House*** : HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES • They hope to win enough seats in the election to regain control of *the House*. — see also HOUSE OF COMMONS, HOUSE OF LORDS
5 [*count*] **a** : a specified kind of business • a publishing *house* • fashion *houses* • an investment banking *house* • a brokerage *house* **b** : a place or building where a specified kind of activity or entertainment occurs • an auction *house* • a ***house of God/worship*** [=a place, such as a church, where people go for religious services] • (*US*) a ***movie house*** [=a cinema, (*US*) a movie theater] : a place where an illegal activity occurs • a gambling *house* • a *house* of prostitution — see also OPERA HOUSE **c** : a particular kind of restaurant • We had dinner at the local fish *house*. • a seafood *house* • Oyster stew is a ***specialty of the house***. [=a special dish that is featured in a restaurant] ✧ A ***house wine*** is a basic wine that is always available in a restaurant. A ***house salad*** and a ***house (salad) dressing*** are the regular salad and dressing in a U.S. restaurant. • Would you like the *house salad* or a spinach salad? • The *house dressing* is a creamy vinaigrette. — see also COFFEEHOUSE, STEAK HOUSE
6 [*count*] : the audience in a theater or concert hall • They had a full/packed *house* on opening night. • When the movie

ended, ***there wasn't a dry eye in the house***. [=everyone had tears in their eyes]✧ To ***bring down the house*** or to ***bring the house down*** is to get great approval and applause or laughter from an audience. ▪ His performance *brought down the house* night after night.

7 *House* [*count*] : a royal or noble family including ancestors and all the people who are related to them ▪ the *House* of Tudor

8 [*noncount*] : a type of electronic dance music with a heavy, regular beat — called also *house music*

clean house *US* **1 :** to clean the floors, furniture, etc., inside a house ▪ He *cleans house* on Tuesdays. **2 :** to make important basic changes in an organization, business, etc., in order to correct problems ▪ After the corruption was revealed, the police chief decided it was time to *clean house*.

(from) house to house ✧ If you go *(from) house to house*, you go to each house or apartment in an area and do or ask for something. ▪ Volunteers went *from house to house* asking for donations.— see also HOUSE-TO-HOUSE

house in order ✧ To put/get/set (etc.) your *house in order* is to improve or correct the way you do things. ▪ We should *get our* (own) *house in order* before we criticize others for their mistakes. ▪ The company needs to *get its financial house in order*. [=to correct its financial problems]

keep house **:** to do the work that is needed to take care of a house ▪ When I started living on my own I had no idea how to cook or *keep house*. ▪ You need someone to *keep house* for you.— see also HOUSEKEEPER, HOUSEKEEPING

like a house on fire *informal* **:** extremely well ▪ Those two got on/along *like a house on fire*. [=they liked each other very much] ▪ (*US*) The business started out *like a house on fire*. [=the business started very successfully]

on the house **:** without charge : FREE ▪ The drinks are *on the house*.

people who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones see [1]GLASS

play house ✧ When children *play house* they pretend that they are adults and that they are doing the things that adults do in a house, such as cooking and serving food. ▪ She always loved *playing house* with her little sister.

set up house **:** to become settled in a house where you are going to live ▪ They moved to California and *set up house* in a suburb of Los Angeles.

– house•ful /ˈhaʊsˌfʊl/ *noun, pl* **-fuls** [*count*] ▪ a *houseful* of guests

[2]house /ˈhaʊz/ *verb* **hous•es**; **housed**; **hous•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to provide shelter or a living space for (someone) ▪ More prisons are needed to *house* the growing number of inmates. — often used as *(be) housed* ▪ The soldiers *were housed* in poorly heated huts.

2 : to be a shelter for (something) : to store or contain (something) ▪ The museum *houses* an impressive collection of jewels. — often used as *(be) housed* ▪ The paintings *are* now *housed* in the National Gallery.

3 : to surround or enclose (something) in order to protect it ▪ The carpenter built casing to *house* the hot water pipes.

house arrest *noun* [*noncount*] *law* : the condition of being forced to stay in your home rather than in prison as a form of punishment — often used with *under* ▪ He was placed *under house arrest* until the trial.

house•boat /ˈhaʊsˌboʊt/ *noun, pl* **-boats** [*count*] : a boat that is also used as a house

house•bound /ˈhaʊsˌbaʊnd/ *adj* : unable to leave your home ▪ She has been *housebound* since she fell.

house•break /ˈhaʊsˌbreɪk/ *verb* **-breaks**; **-broke** /-ˌbroʊk/; **-bro•ken** /-ˌbroʊkən/; **-break•ing** [+ *obj*] *US* : to train (an animal) to urinate or defecate outside the home or in an acceptable place indoors ▪ She's trying to *housebreak* [=(*chiefly Brit*) *house-train*] a puppy.

house•break•ing /ˈhaʊsˌbreɪkɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the act of forcefully entering someone's house in order to commit a crime (such as robbery)

– house•break•er /ˈhaʊsˌbreɪkɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

housebroken *adj, US, of an animal* : trained to urinate or defecate outside the home or in an acceptable place indoors ▪ Pigs are said to make very good pets once they are *housebroken*. [=(*chiefly Brit*) *house-trained*]

house call *noun, pl* **~ calls** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a visit by a doctor to someone's house ▪ Does your doctor make *house calls*?

house cat *noun, pl* **~ cats** [*count*] : a cat that is kept as a pet

house•clean•ing /ˈhaʊsˌkliːnɪŋ/ *noun* [*singular*] : the act or activity of cleaning the inside of a house or apartment and its furniture, appliances, etc. ▪ We gave the place a thorough *housecleaning*.

house•coat /ˈhaʊsˌkoʊt/ *noun, pl* **-coats** [*count*] : an informal and often long and loose piece of clothing that is worn by a woman at home

house•dress /ˈhaʊsˌdrɛs/ *noun, pl* **-dress•es** [*count*] *chiefly US* : an informal dress that is usually worn only while cleaning or doing other housework

house•fly /ˈhaʊsˌflaɪ/ *noun, pl* **-flies** [*count*] : a common fly that lives in or near people's houses — see color picture on page C10

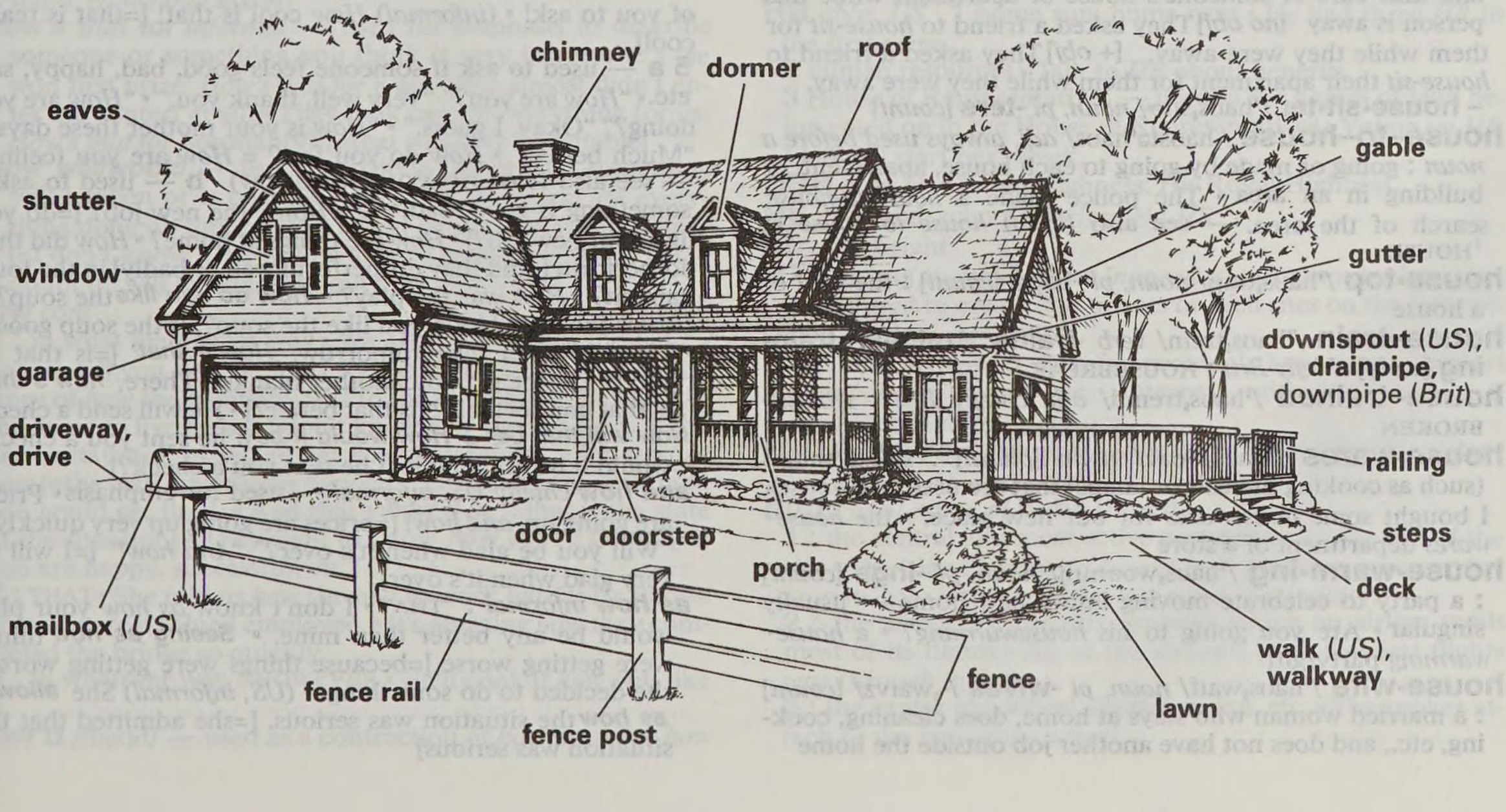
house•guest /ˈhaʊsˌgɛst/ *noun, pl* **-guests** [*count*] : a person who visits and usually stays in someone's home overnight ▪ We have *houseguests* this weekend.

[1]house•hold /ˈhaʊsˌhoʊld/ *noun, pl* **-holds** [*count*] : the people in a family or other group that are living together in one house ▪ At that time, not many *households* had telephones. ▪ This form should be filled out by the ***head of the household***. [=the person in the house who is responsible for making decisions and earning money]

[2]household *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : of or relating to a house or to the people living in a house ▪ *household* appliances/chores

house



2 : known to many people : familiar or common ▪ a famous actor who has become a ***household name*** [=a person or thing whose name is very well-known]

house•hold•er /ˈhaʊsˌhoʊldɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *chiefly Brit, formal* : someone who lives in a house, apartment, etc.

house•hus•band /ˈhaʊsˌhʌzbənd/ *noun, pl* **-bands** [*count*] : a married man who stays at home, does cleaning, cooking, etc., and does not have another job outside the home

house•keep•er /ˈhaʊsˌkiːpɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a person whose job is to manage the cooking, cleaning, etc., in a house

house•keep•ing /ˈhaʊsˌkiːpɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : the work (such as cooking and cleaning) that is done in a house : HOUSEWORK ▪ Who does your *housekeeping*? ▪ *housekeeping* expenses

2 : the things that must be done regularly to keep something working properly ▪ We took the computer offline to do some basic *housekeeping*.

house•maid /ˈhaʊsˌmeɪd/ *noun, pl* **-maids** [*count*] *chiefly Brit, old-fashioned* : a female servant who does cleaning, laundry, etc.

house•mate /ˈhaʊsˌmeɪt/ *noun, pl* **-mates** [*count*] : a person who lives in the same house with another person but is not a part of that person's family ▪ In college, she lived in a house off campus with five *housemates*. ▪ The TV belongs to my *housemate*.

house music *noun* [*noncount*] : HOUSE 8

house of cards *noun, pl* **houses of cards** [*count*] : a structure built by balancing playing cards on top of each other — often used figuratively to describe something (such as a plan) that is weak and can fail easily ▪ Her elaborate scheme collapsed like a *house of cards*.

House of Commons *noun*

the House of Commons : the part of the British or Canadian Parliament whose members are elected by voters

House of Lords *noun*

the House of Lords : the part of the British Parliament whose members are not elected by voters

House of Representatives *noun*

the House of Representatives : the larger part of the U.S. Congress or of the Parliament of Australia or New Zealand — compare SENATE

house•paint•er /ˈhaʊsˌpeɪntɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a person whose job is painting houses

house party *noun, pl* ~ **-ties** [*count*] : a large party at someone's house that usually lasts for several days

house•plant /ˈhaʊsˌplænt, *Brit* ˈhaʊsˌplɑːnt/ *noun, pl* **-plants** [*count*] : a plant that is grown or kept indoors — see color picture on page C6

house–proud /ˈhaʊsˌpraʊd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *chiefly Brit* : proud of your house because you spend time and effort cleaning or improving it

house–sit /ˈhaʊsˌsɪt/ *verb* **-sits**; **-sat**; **-sit•ting** : to stay in and take care of someone's house or apartment while that person is away [*no obj*] They asked a friend to *house-sit* for them while they were away. [+ *obj*] They asked a friend to *house-sit* their apartment for them while they were away.

– **house•sit•ter** /ˈhaʊsˌsɪtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*]

house–to–house /ˌhaʊstəˈhaʊs/ *adj, always used before a noun* : going or made by going to each house, apartment, or building in an area ▪ The police made a *house-to-house* search of the area. — see also *(from) house to house* at ¹HOUSE

house•top /ˈhaʊsˌtɑːp/ *noun, pl* **-tops** [*count*] : the roof of a house

house–train /ˈhaʊsˌtreɪn/ *verb* **-trains**; **-trained**; **-train•ing** [+ *obj*] *chiefly Brit* : HOUSEBREAK

house–trained /ˈhaʊsˌtreɪnd/ *adj, chiefly Brit* : HOUSEBROKEN

house•wares /ˈhaʊsˌweɚz/ *noun* [*plural*] : small things (such as cooking utensils or lamps) that are used in a house ▪ I bought some *housewares* for our new place. ▪ the *housewares* department of a store

house•warm•ing /ˈhaʊsˌwoɚmɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-ings** [*count*] : a party to celebrate moving into a new home — usually singular ▪ Are you going to his *housewarming*? ▪ a *housewarming* party/gift

house•wife /ˈhaʊsˌwaɪf/ *noun, pl* **-wives** /-ˌwaɪvz/ [*count*] : a married woman who stays at home, does cleaning, cooking, etc., and does not have another job outside the home

house•work /ˈhaʊsˌwɚk/ *noun* [*noncount*] : work (such as cleaning, cooking, or laundry) that is done to keep a house clean and running properly ▪ I got up early and did some *housework*.

hous•ing /ˈhaʊzɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-ings**

1 [*noncount*] : the houses, apartments, etc., in which people live ▪ The cost of *housing* continued to rise. ▪ The state should provide more/better *housing* for poor people. [=should provide poor people with more/better places to live] ▪ low-income *housing* ▪ *housing* costs — see also SOCIAL HOUSING

2 [*count*] : something that covers or protects something else (such as a mechanical part) ▪ I had to remove the *housing* to inspect the vent.

housing development *noun, pl* ~ **-ments** [*count*] *US* : a group of houses that are built near each other and sold or rented by one owner — called also (*Brit*) *housing estate*

housing project *noun, pl* ~ **-jects** [*count*] *US* : a group of houses or apartments that are built for poor people — called also (*US*) *project*

hove *past tense and past participle of* ¹HEAVE

hov•el /ˈhʌvəl, ˈhɑːvəl/ *noun, pl* **-els** [*count*] : a small, poorly built and often dirty house

hov•er /ˈhʌvɚ, *Brit* ˈhɒvə/ *verb* **-ers**; **-ered**; **-er•ing** [*no obj*]

1 : to float in the air without moving in any direction ▪ Watch as the hummingbird *hovers* over the flowers. ▪ Helicopters *hovered* above us. ▪ Bees *hovered* around the hive.

2 : to stay very close to a person or place ▪ Waiters *hovered* near our table. ▪ nervous mothers *hovering* over their children

3 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* **a** : to stay near a specified point or level ▪ Unemployment rates were *hovering* around 10 percent. ▪ Temperatures will continue to *hover* around freezing. **b** : to be or remain in a specified state or condition ▪ The patient was *hovering* between life and death. ▪ The country *hovers* on the brink of famine.

hov•er•craft /ˈhʌvɚˌkræft, *Brit* ˈhɒvəˌkrɑːft/ *noun, pl* **-craft** [*count*] : a vehicle that moves just above the surface of land or water on a cushion of air

¹how /ˈhaʊ/ *adv*

1 : in what manner or way ▪ *How* and where did you meet him? ▪ *How* shall I address the President? ▪ *How* will we pay for the trip? : by what means ▪ "*How* did you get here?" "By bus." ▪ "*How* did she die?" "She had cancer." ▪ *How* do you know that? ▪ *How* did you find us? ▪ *How* could you have known?

2 : for what reason : WHY ▪ *How* did you happen to move here? ▪ "Is it going to rain?" "***How should/would I know?***" [=I don't know]

3 : to what degree, extent, or amount — used before an adjective or adverb ▪ *How* handsome is he? ▪ *How* much longer do we have to wait? = *How* much longer is the wait? ▪ I don't know *how* good the service is at the new restaurant. ▪ I'm not sure *how* old he is. ▪ It's a pity *how* rarely we see each other.

4 — used for emphasis before an adjective ▪ *How* old he is! [=he is very old] ▪ *How* wonderful/strange/awful! ▪ *How* kind of you to ask! ▪ (*informal*) *How* cool is that! [=that is really cool]

5 a — used to ask if someone feels good, bad, happy, sad, etc. ▪ "*How* are you?" "Very well, thank you." ▪ "*How* are you doing?" "Okay, I guess." ▪ "*How* is your mother these days?" "Much better." ▪ *How* do you feel? = *How* are you feeling? — see also HOW DO YOU DO (below) **b** — used to ask if something is good, bad, etc. ▪ *How's* the new job? [=do you like your new job?] ▪ *How* are things at home? ▪ *How* did they do/perform [=did they do/perform well or badly] in the tournament? ▪ *How* was the play? ▪ ***How do you like*** the soup? = *How* is the soup? [=do you like the soup?; is the soup good?] ▪ I can bring it over tomorrow. ***How's that?*** [=is that all right?] ▪ Let me get you another blanket. There, ***how's that?*** [=is that comfortable?; is that better?] ▪ He will send a check. ***How will that be?*** = ***How would it be*** if he sent you a check? [=would it be acceptable if he sent you a check?]

and how *chiefly US, informal* — used for emphasis ▪ Prices are going up, *and how*! [=prices are going up very quickly] ▪ "Will you be glad when it's over?" "*And how*!" [=I will be very glad when it's over]

as how *informal* : ²THAT ▪ I don't know *as how* your plan would be any better than mine. ▪ ***Seeing as how*** things were getting worse [=because things were getting worse], she decided to do something. ▪ (*US, informal*) She ***allowed as how*** the situation was serious. [=she admitted that the situation was serious]

how about **1 :** does that include (someone) **:** what about ▪ "We're all going to the beach." "*How about* Kenny?" **2** *informal* **a** — used to show that you are very impressed by someone or something ▪ He won again! *How about* that guy! [=isn't that guy amazing/impressive?] **b *how about that*** *chiefly US* — used to show that you are surprised or pleased by something ▪ He won again! *How about that*! [=what good news!; isn't that great?] **3** *also US (informal)* ***how's about*** **a** — used to make a suggestion about what could be done ▪ We'll need to talk about this again. *How about* (meeting) next month? ▪ *How about* [=*what about*] driving to the coast for the weekend? ▪ *How about* another game? [=would you like to play another game?] ▪ What should we do tonight? *How about* (seeing) a movie? ▪ *How's about* some more pie? **b** — used to ask someone to give you something ▪ *How about* a couple of dollars until payday? [=can you loan me a couple of dollars until payday?] ▪ *How's about* (offering me) a drink? **c** — used to ask if someone will do something ▪ Well, ***how about it***, are you coming? **4** — used to ask someone to tell you something in response to what you have just said ▪ I like skiing and hiking. ***How about you?*** [=what sports do you like?] ▪ I'm ready to go. *How about you?* [=are you ready, too?]

how can/could **1** — used to show you think that someone has done or said something shocking or wrong ▪ "We don't need his help anyway." "*How can* you say that?!" [=it is very wrong of you to say that] ▪ *How could* she just walk away from her children like that? **2** — used to express doubt that something will happen, is possible, etc. ▪ *How could* I (ever/possibly) leave this job? ▪ *How can* I (ever/possibly) thank you? [=I can never thank you enough; I am extremely grateful to you] **3 *how could you*** *informal* — used to show disappointment in someone's actions, thoughts, words, etc. ▪ You threw away my gift? Oh, *how could you*?

how come *chiefly US, informal* — used to ask why something has happened, is true, etc. ▪ "He said he's not going." "*How come*?" [=why isn't he going?] ▪ *How come* you're here so early? [=why are you here so early?] ▪ *How come* no one told me?

how dare you see ¹DARE

how do you do *formal* **:** HELLO — used especially when you are first introduced to someone ▪ *How do you do*, Miss Smith?

how do you like that — used for emphasis or to show surprise or disapproval ▪ He's moving to Hawaii? Well, *how do you like that*! [=that's a surprise] ▪ She canceled at the last minute. *How do you like that*?

how goes it? see ¹GO

how's everything (going) see EVERYTHING

how so **:** in what way **:** why do you think that ▪ "This room looks different." "*How so*?" [=in what way does it look different?]

how's that (again) *informal* **:** WHAT — used to request that something be repeated or explained again ▪ *How's that*? [=what did you say?] I didn't hear you. ▪ I don't understand. *How's that again*?

how's that for *informal* — used for emphasis to describe someone or something you think is very impressive ▪ He won first prize! *How's that for* a guy who almost didn't enter the contest at all! ▪ They took care of everything for us. *How's that for* hospitality? [=that was very hospitable]

how will/would — used to express doubt that something will happen or is possible ▪ *How will* we (ever) get everything done on time? ▪ *How would* he manage without her? [=I don't know if he will be able to manage without her; I doubt he will manage without her]

²how *conj*

1 : in what manner or way ▪ We asked *how* we could help. ▪ Let me tell you *how* we'll pay for the trip. ▪ The book tells the story of *how* the company was founded. ▪ She explained *how* she came to live here. ▪ I don't know *how* the service is at the new restaurant. ▪ I remember *how* they fought. ▪ It's strange *how* [=the way that] things happen. ▪ Be careful *how* you talk; you could get fired. ▪ And that's ***how it is***. [=that is the state of the situation] ▪ They want to know ***how you're doing***. [=if you are happy, successful, etc.]

2 : THAT ▪ She told us *how* she had to work hard. ▪ He knows *how* you are a valued employee. ▪ It's amazing *how* they completed the bridge so quickly.

3 : in whatever way **:** HOWEVER ▪ He'll cook it *how* you like it.

how'd /ˈhaʊd/ — used as a contraction of *how would* or *how did* ▪ *How'd* [=how did] you like your meal? ▪ *How'd* [=how would] you like to go to the beach?

how·dy /ˈhaʊdi/ *interj, US* — used as an informal greeting ▪ *Howdy*, folks.

¹how·ev·er /haʊˈɛvɚ/ *adv*

1 — used when you are saying something that is different from or contrasts with a previous statement ▪ I'd like to go; *however*, I'd better not. [=I'd like to go, but I should not] ▪ The forecast is bad. It's possible, *however*, that conditions could improve. ▪ Sales are up this quarter. *However*, expenses have increased as well.

2 : to whatever degree or extent **:** no matter how — used before an adjective or adverb ▪ *However* many people come [=whether a few people or many people come], we'll be ready. ▪ She couldn't convince him, *however* hard [=no matter how hard] she tried.

3 — used as a more forceful way of saying *how* ▪ *However* did you do that? [=how did you ever do that?]

²however *conj* **:** in whatever manner or way ▪ Do it *however* you like. ▪ I will help *however* I can.

how·it·zer /ˈhawətsɚ/ *noun, pl* **-zers** [*count*] **:** a large gun that is used to fire shells high into the air for a short distance

howl /ˈhawəl/ *verb* **howls; howled; howl·ing**

1 [*no obj*] *of a dog, wolf, etc.* **:** to make a long, loud cry that sounds sad ▪ The dogs were *howling* at the moon.

2 [*no obj*] *of the wind* **:** to make a long, loud sound ▪ The wind was *howling*.

3 [*no obj*] **:** to cry out loudly in pain, anger, amusement, etc. ▪ He *howled* in agony. ▪ The audience ***howled with laughter***. [=the audience laughed very loudly]

4 : to say something in a loud and angry way [+ *obj*] "I can't take it!" she *howled*. = She *howled* that she couldn't take it. [*no obj*] Activists are *howling* (in protest) over the court's decision. ▪ protesters *howling* for change

– howl *noun, pl* **howls** [*count*] ▪ We heard the dog's *howls*. ▪ He let out a *howl* of protest. ▪ *howls* of laughter

howl·er /ˈhaʊlɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *informal* **:** a stupid but funny mistake or error ▪ The article was full of *howlers*.

howling /ˈhaʊlɪŋ/ *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : producing the long, low sound made by strong wind ▪ a *howling* storm

2 *informal* **:** very great ▪ The movie was a *howling* success.

how's /ˈhaʊz/ — used as a contraction of *how is* ▪ *How's* your meal? ▪ *How's* she doing?

¹how·so·ev·er /ˌhaʊsəˈwɛvɚ/ *adv, formal* **:** ¹HOWEVER

²howsoever *conj, formal* **:** ²HOWEVER

¹how–to /ˈhaʊˈtu:/ *adj, always used before a noun, chiefly US* **:** giving practical instruction or advice on how to do something yourself ▪ *how-to* books on starting your own business

²how–to *noun, pl* **-tos** [*count*] *chiefly US* **:** a way of doing something yourself **:** instruction about how to do something ▪ the *how-tos* of balancing a checkbook

hp *abbr* horsepower ▪ a 200 *hp* engine

HQ *abbr* headquarters ▪ Check in at camp *HQ* by 8:00.

hr *abbr* hour ▪ a 35-*hr* work week

HR *abbr, US* **1** home run; home runs ▪ He had three *HR* in the first game.

2 human resources ▪ Talk to *HR* about benefits.

3 House of Representatives — used in the names of laws being voted on in the House of Representatives ▪ Voting on *HR* 1740 will start next week.

HRH *abbr* Her Royal Highness; His Royal Highness

HS *abbr* high school ▪ Springfield *HS*

ht. *abbr* height

HTML /ˌeɪʧˌti:ˌɛmˈɛl/ *noun* [*noncount*] **:** a computer language that is used to create documents or Web sites on the Internet ▪ Do you know *HTML*?

http *abbr* hypertext transfer protocol; hypertext transport protocol — used in Internet addresses ▪ *http://www.Merriam-Webster.com*

H_2O /ˌeɪʧˌtu:ˈoʊ/ *technical* — the chemical symbol for water ▪ two parts H_2O

hub /ˈhʌb/ *noun, pl* **hubs** [*count*]

1 : the central and most active part or place ▪ the *hub* of the city ▪ The island is a major tourist *hub*. [=a place where many tourists go] ▪ She was at the *hub* of all the activity.

2 : the airport or the city through which an airline sends most of its flights ▪ All of the airline's coast-to-coast flights pass through its *hub*.

3 : the center of a wheel, propeller, fan, etc. ▪ The spokes attach to the *hub* of the wheel.

hub•bub /ˈhʌˌbʌb/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : a loud mixture of sound or voices ▪ All the *hubbub* in the airport made it hard to hear the flight announcements.
2 : a situation in which there is much noise, confusion, excitement, and activity ▪ the *hubbub* surrounding the film star ▪ We went to the country to escape the *hubbub* of the city. ▪ What's all the *hubbub* about?

hub•by /ˈhʌbi/ *noun, pl* **-bies** [*count*] *informal* : HUSBAND

hub•cap /ˈhʌbˌkæp/ *noun, pl* **-caps** [*count*] : a removable plastic or metal cover on the center of a car or truck wheel — see picture at CAR

hu•bris /ˈhju:brəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal + literary* : a great or foolish amount of pride or confidence ▪ His failure was brought on by his *hubris*.

huck•ster /ˈhʌkstɚ/ *noun, pl* **-sters** [*count*] *US, disapproving* : someone who sells or advertises something in an aggressive, dishonest, or annoying way

HUD /ˈhʌd/ *abbr, US* (Department of) Housing and Urban Development ▪ an official at *HUD* ✧ The Department of Housing and Urban Development is a part of the U.S. federal government that is responsible for policies that relate to providing housing for U.S. citizens.

[1]hud•dle /ˈhʌdl̩/ *verb* **hud•dles**; **hud•dled**; **hud•dling** [*no obj*]
1 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* : to come close together in a group ▪ People were *huddling* (together) in doorways to get out of the rain. ▪ We *huddled* around the campfire. ▪ The sheep *huddled* together for warmth. ▪ "Give me your tired, your poor, your *huddled* masses yearning to breathe free . . ." —Emma Lazarus, "The New Colossus" (1883)
2 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* : to sit or lie in a curled or bent position ▪ The students *huddled* over their desks.
3 a : to come together to talk about something privately ▪ Union representatives are *huddling* to discuss the proposal. **b** *American football* : to gather in a huddle — often + *up* ▪ The players *huddled up*.

[2]huddle *noun, pl* **huddles** [*count*]
1 : a group of people or things that are close to each other ▪ sheep standing in a *huddle*
2 a : a private discussion or meeting ▪ The boss is in a *huddle* with the marketing director **b** *American football* : a group of players who have gathered away from the line of scrimmage for a short time to hear instructions for the next play ▪ The quarterback called the offense into a *huddle*.

hue /ˈhju:/ *noun, pl* **hues** [*count*]
1 : a color or a shade of a color ▪ We decorated the room in *hues* of blue and green.
2 : kind or type ▪ politicians of every *hue* [=of every kind]

hue and cry *noun* [*singular*] : an angry protest about something ▪ There was a *hue and cry* in opposition to the film.

hued /ˈhju:d/ *adj* : having a specified type of color ▪ brightly/richly *hued* [=*colored*] cloth ▪ *green*-hued

[1]huff /ˈhʌf/ *verb* **huffs**; **huffed**; **huff•ing** [+ *obj*] : to say (something) in a way that shows you are annoyed or angry ▪ "The project is a complete waste of time," she *huffed*.
huff and puff **1** : to breathe in a loud and heavy way because of physical effort ▪ He was *huffing and puffing* when he got to the top of the stairs. **2** : to show you are annoyed or angry ▪ She'll *huff and puff* for a while, but she'll calm down later.

[2]huff *noun*
in a huff : in an angry or annoyed state ▪ They argued and she left *in a huff*. ▪ When he didn't get the promotion, he quit his job *in a huff*. [=he got angry and suddenly quit his job]

huffy /ˈhʌfi/ *adj* **huff•i•er**; **-est** *informal* : angry or annoyed ▪ Now, don't ***get huffy***—I was only teasing.
– **huff•i•ly** /ˈhʌfəli/ *adv* ▪ He *huffily* refused to answer.

[1]hug /ˈhʌg/ *verb* **hugs**; **hugged**; **hug•ging**
1 : to put your arms around someone especially as a way of showing love or friendship [+ *obj*] I *hugged* him close. ▪ She *hugged* her daughter. [*no obj*] We *hugged* briefly, and then it was time to say goodbye.
2 [+ *obj*] : to hold (something) tightly with your arms ▪ I *hugged* my knees to my chest.
3 [+ *obj*] : to stay close to (something) ▪ The road *hugs* the river. ▪ The boat *hugged* the shore. ▪ body-*hugging* clothing [=clothes that are tight]
– **hug•ga•ble** /ˈhʌgəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ a cute, *huggable* puppy

[2]hug *noun, pl* **hugs** [*count*] : the act of putting your arms around someone or something as a way of showing love or friendship ▪ *hugs* and kisses ▪ He gave me a big *hug*. [=he hugged me]

huge /ˈhju:ʤ/ *adj* : very large : very great in size, amount, or degree ▪ a *huge* building/truck/garden ▪ The crowds were *huge*. ▪ Renovating the house is a *huge* undertaking. ▪ The store is having a *huge* sale tomorrow. ▪ The presentation was a *huge* success. [=the presentation was very successful]
– **huge•ly** *adv* ▪ a *hugely* popular movie

huh /ˈhʌ/ *interj, informal*
1 *chiefly US* — used at the end of a statement to ask whether someone agrees with you ▪ It's pretty good, *huh*?
2 — used when you have not heard or understood something that was said ▪ "His name is Cholmondely." "*Huh*?" [=*what*?]
3 — used to show surprise, disbelief, or disapproval ▪ "His wife left him." "*Huh*! I thought they had a happy marriage."

hu•la /ˈhu:lə/ *noun, pl* **-las** [*singular*] : a Hawaiian dance that has flowing hand and hip movements

Hula–Hoop /ˈhu:ləˌhu:p/ *trademark* — used for a plastic hoop that is twirled around your body by moving your hips

hulk /ˈhʌlk/ *noun, pl* **hulks** [*count*]
1 : the main part of something (such as a ship, car, or building) that has been ruined and is no longer used ▪ The ship's rusting *hulk* is still visible on the rocks. ▪ the burned out *hulk* of the factory
2 *informal* : a large person ▪ He's a (great) *hulk of* a man. [=he's a very large man]

hulk•ing /ˈhʌlkɪŋ/ *adj, always used before a noun* : very large or heavy ▪ A *hulking* figure appeared in the doorway. ▪ *hulking* buildings

[1]hull /ˈhʌl/ *noun, pl* **hulls** [*count*]
1 : the main part of a ship or boat : the deck, sides, and bottom of a ship or boat — see picture at BOAT
2 : the outer covering of a fruit, grain, or seed ▪ sesame seed *hulls*

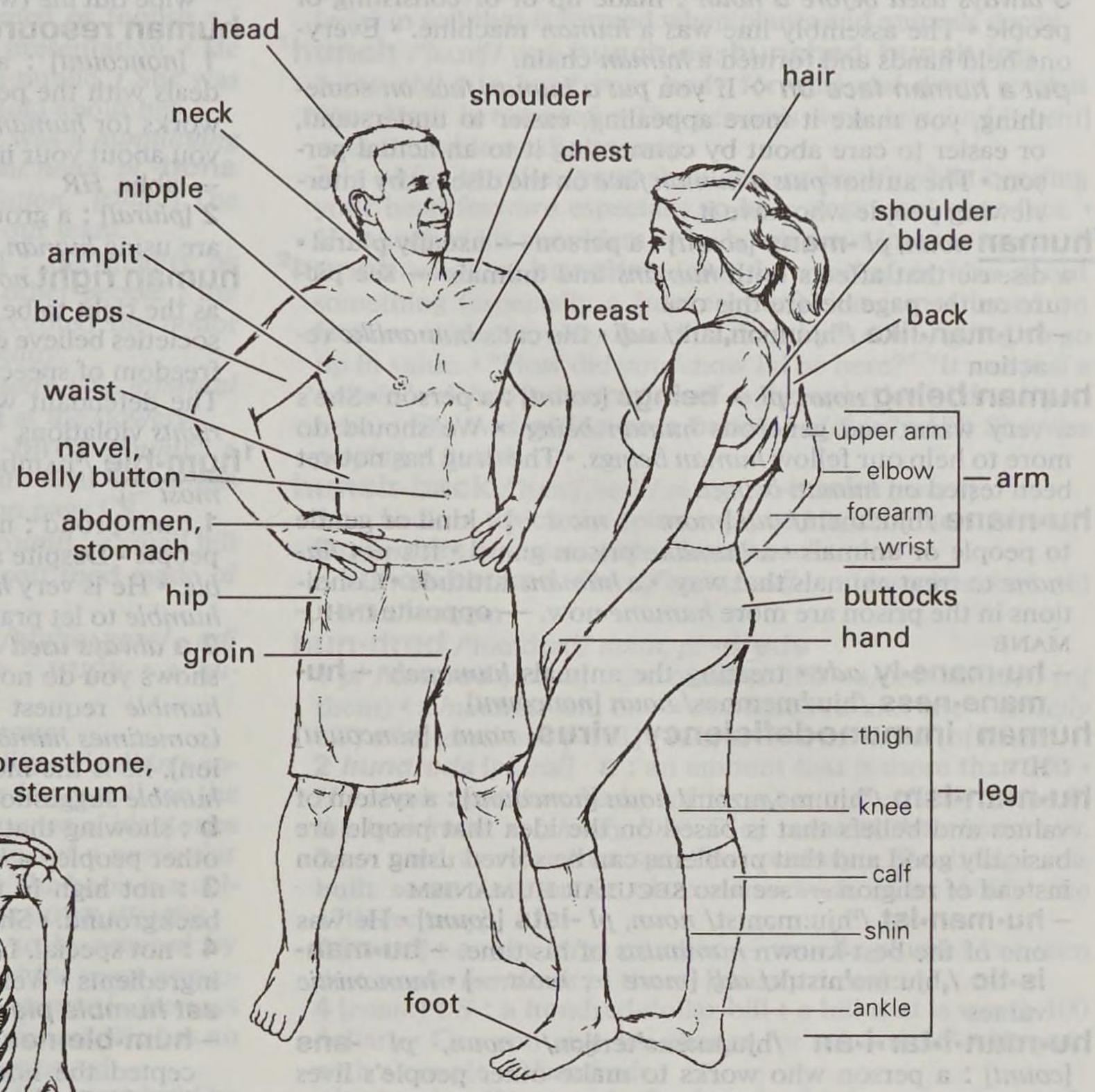
[2]hull *verb* **hulls**; **hulled**; **hull•ing** [+ *obj*] : to remove the outer covering of (a fruit or seed) ▪ *hulling* seeds

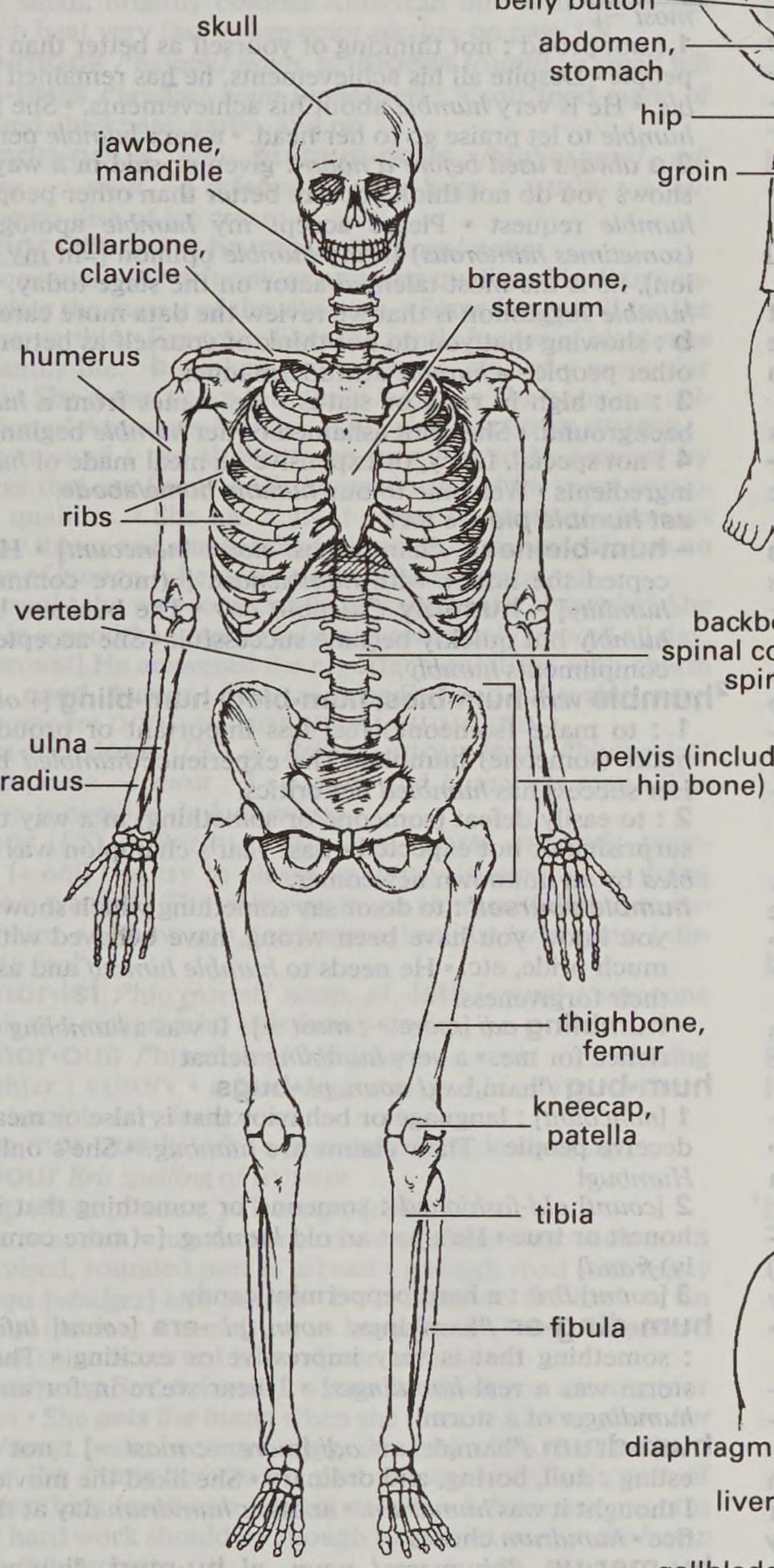
hul•la•ba•loo /ˈhʌləbəˌlu:/ *noun, informal*
1 : a very noisy and confused situation [*singular*] The announcement caused quite a *hullabaloo*. [*noncount*] The announcement caused a lot of *hullabaloo*.
2 : a situation in which many people are upset and angry about something [*singular*] There was a *hullabaloo* over his controversial statements. [*noncount*] There was a lot of *hullabaloo* over his controversial statements.

hum /ˈhʌm/ *verb* **hums**; **hummed**; **hum•ming**
1 [*no obj*] : to make a low continuous sound ▪ The garden was *humming* with bees. ▪ The refrigerator *hummed* in the background.
2 : to sing the notes of a song while keeping your lips closed [*no obj*] I was *humming* to myself. ▪ We *hummed* along to the music. [+ *obj*] Can you *hum* the tune for me? = Can you *hum* me the tune? ▪ I *hummed* a little song.
3 [*no obj*] : to be very active or busy ▪ By noon, the office was really *humming*. ▪ The restaurant *hums* on weekends.
– **hum** *noun* [*singular*] ▪ the *hum* of insects ▪ We could hear the *hum* of conversation from the next room.

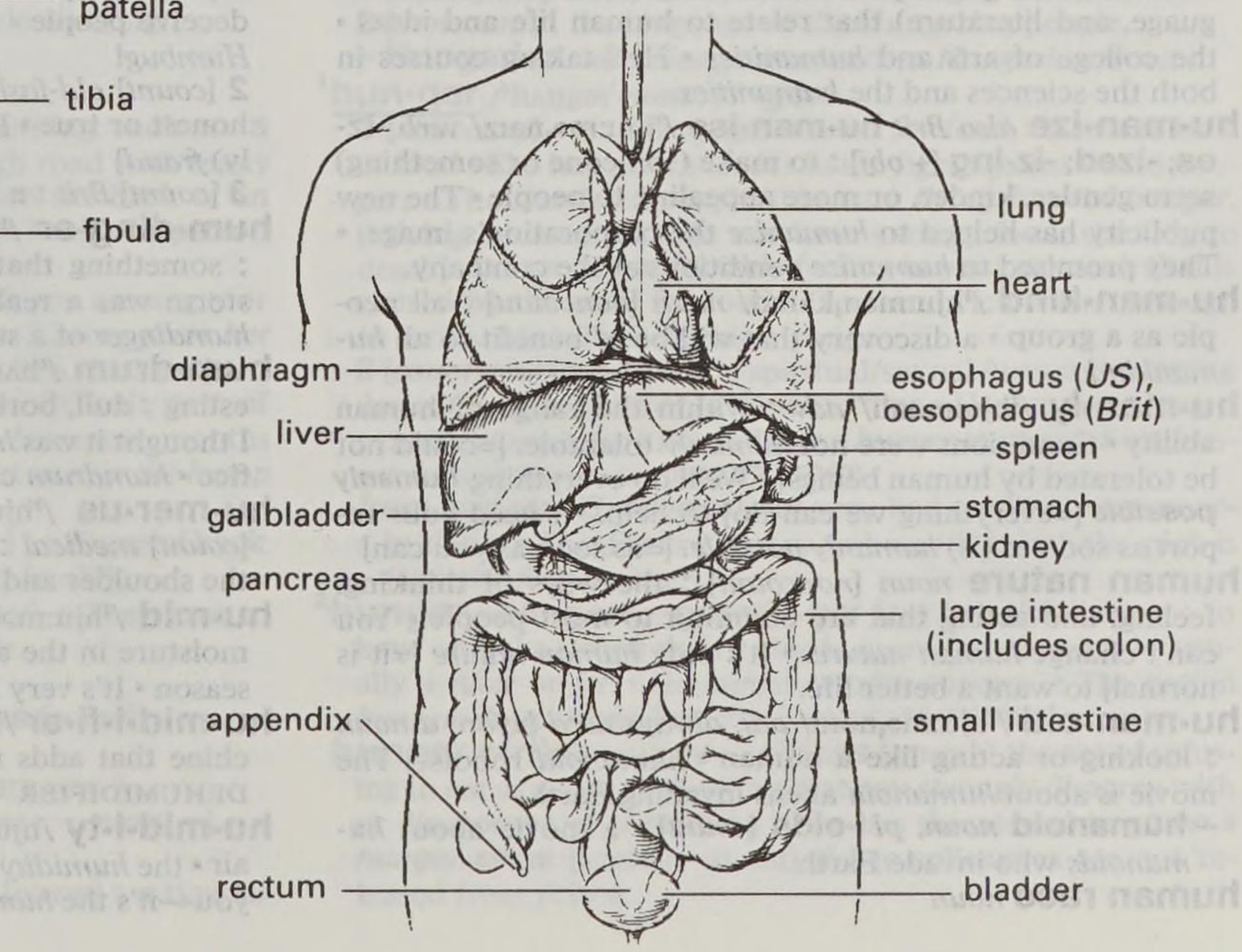
[1]hu•man /ˈhju:mən/ *adj*
1 : of, relating to, or affecting people ▪ the *human* body ▪ the *human* brain ▪ *human* suffering ▪ problems that have occurred throughout *human* history ▪ The accident was blamed on ***human error***. [=the accident was blamed on a person's mistake rather than on the failure of a machine] ▪ a story that has ***human interest*** = a ***human-interest*** story [=a story that is appealing because it involves the experiences of real people] ▪ The need to be loved is simply part of ***the human condition***. [=part of being a person] ▪ an area where ancient ***human remains*** [=parts of the bodies of dead people] have been found
2 [*more* ~; *most* ~] **a** : typical of people ▪ a *human* failing/weakness ▪ *human* kindness ▪ *human* emotions ▪ His desire for revenge was very *human*. [=was very typical of the way people are] **b** [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having good or bad qualities that people usually have ▪ She is a very kind and *human* person. ▪ I once thought that he was perfect, but now I know that he's all too *human*. [=that he has the same problems, weaknesses, etc., that other people have] ✧ If you say that someone is ***only human***, you are saying that the mistakes someone has made could have been made by anyone. ▪ We do the best we can, but we're *only human*. **c** : looking or

human





skeleton



acting like a person ▪ The dog's expression was almost *human*. — compare INHUMAN

3 *always used before a noun* : made up of or consisting of people ▪ The assembly line was a *human* machine. ▪ Everyone held hands and formed a *human* chain.

put a human face on ✧ If you *put a human face on* something, you make it more appealing, easier to understand, or easier to care about by connecting it to an actual person. ▪ The author *puts a human face* on the disease by interviewing people who have it.

²human *noun, pl* **-mans** [*count*] : a person — usually plural ▪ a disease that affects both *humans* and animals — see picture on the page before this one

– **hu·man·like** /ˈhju:mənˌlaɪk/ *adj* ▪ the cat's *humanlike* reaction

human being *noun, pl* ~ **beings** [*count*] : a person ▪ She's a very warm and generous *human being*. ▪ We should do more to help our fellow *human beings*. ▪ The drug has not yet been tested on *human beings*.

hu·mane /hju:ˈmeɪn/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : kind or gentle to people or animals ▪ a *humane* prison guard ▪ It's not *humane* to treat animals that way. ▪ a *humane* attitude ▪ Conditions in the prison are more *humane* now. — opposite INHUMANE

– **hu·mane·ly** *adv* ▪ treating the animals *humanely* – **hu·mane·ness** /hju:ˈmeɪnnəs/ *noun* [*noncount*]

human immunodeficiency virus *noun* [*noncount*] : HIV

hu·man·ism /ˈhju:məˌnɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a system of values and beliefs that is based on the idea that people are basically good and that problems can be solved using reason instead of religion — see also SECULAR HUMANISM

– **hu·man·ist** /ˈhju:mənɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] ▪ He was one of the best-known *humanists* of his time. – **hu·man·is·tic** /ˌhju:məˈnɪstɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ *humanistic* values

hu·man·i·tar·i·an /hjuˌmænəˈterijən/ *noun, pl* **-ans** [*count*] : a person who works to make other people's lives better ▪ She has been recognized as a great *humanitarian* for her efforts to end world hunger.

– **humanitarian** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ *humanitarian* efforts ▪ *humanitarian* aid [=help or money given to people, countries, etc., in order to improve living conditions] – **hu·man·i·tar·i·an·ism** /hjuˌmænəˈterijəˌnɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ She has been honored for her *humanitarianism*.

hu·man·i·ty /hjuˈmænəti/ *noun, pl* **-ties**

1 [*noncount*] **a** : the quality or state of being human ▪ They were joined together by their (common) *humanity*. **b** : the quality or state of being kind to other people or to animals ▪ We appealed to his sense of *humanity*. — opposite INHUMANITY

2 [*noncount*] : all people : HUMANKIND ▪ These discoveries will be of benefit to all *humanity*. ▪ She was cut off from the rest of *humanity*.

3 ***humanities*** [*plural*] : areas of study (such as history, language, and literature) that relate to human life and ideas ▪ the college of arts and *humanities* ▪ He's taking courses in both the sciences and the *humanities*.

hu·man·ize *also Brit* **hu·man·ise** /ˈhju:məˌnaɪz/ *verb* **-iz·es**; **-ized**; **-iz·ing** [+ *obj*] : to make (someone or something) seem gentler, kinder, or more appealing to people ▪ The new publicity has helped to *humanize* the corporation's image. ▪ They promised to *humanize* conditions at the company.

hu·man·kind /ˈhju:mənˌkaɪnd/ *noun* [*noncount*] : all people as a group ▪ a discovery that will be of benefit to all *humankind*

hu·man·ly /ˈhju:mənli/ *adv* : within the range of human ability ▪ Conditions were not *humanly* tolerable. [=could not be tolerated by human beings] ▪ We'll do everything ***humanly possible*** [=everything we can do] to help. ▪ I need your report as soon as (is) *humanly possible*. [=as soon as you can]

human nature *noun* [*noncount*] : the ways of thinking, feeling, and acting that are common to most people ▪ You can't change *human nature*. ▪ It's only *human nature* [=it is normal] to want a better life.

hu·man·oid /ˈhju:məˌnoɪd/ *adj, always used before a noun* : looking or acting like a human ▪ *humanoid* robots ▪ The movie is about *humanoid* aliens invading Earth.

– **humanoid** *noun, pl* **-oids** [*count*] ▪ a movie about *humanoids* who invade Earth

human race *noun*

the human race : all people : human beings as a group ▪ the history of *the human race* ▪ destructive weapons that could wipe out *the* (whole) *human race*

human resources *noun*

1 [*noncount*] : a department within an organization that deals with the people who work for that organization ▪ She works for *human resources*. ▪ *Human Resources* will contact you about your interview. ▪ our *human resources* department — abbr. *HR*

2 [*plural*] : a group of people who are able to do work ▪ We are using *human resources* to respond to the problem.

human right *noun, pl* ~ **rights** [*count*] : a basic right (such as the right to be treated well or the right to vote) that many societies believe every person should have ▪ They believe that freedom of speech is a basic *human right*. — usually plural ▪ The defendant was deprived of his *human rights*. ▪ *human rights* violations

¹hum·ble /ˈhʌmbəl/ *adj* **hum·bler**; **hum·blest** [*or more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : not proud : not thinking of yourself as better than other people ▪ Despite all his achievements, he has remained *humble*. ▪ He is very *humble* about his achievements. ▪ She is too *humble* to let praise go to her head. ▪ a very *humble* person

2 a *always used before a noun* : given or said in a way that shows you do not think you are better than other people ▪ a *humble* request ▪ Please accept my *humble* apologies. ▪ (*sometimes humorous*) In my *humble* opinion [=in my opinion], he is the most talented actor on the stage today. ▪ Her *humble* suggestion is that we review the data more carefully. **b** : showing that you do not think of yourself as better than other people ▪ a *humble* attitude/manner

3 : not high in rank or status ▪ He comes from a *humble* background. ▪ She's not ashamed of her *humble* beginnings.

4 : not special, fancy, or expensive ▪ a meal made of *humble* ingredients ▪ Welcome to our ***humble home/abode***.

eat humble pie see EAT

– **hum·ble·ness** /ˈhʌmbəlnəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ He accepted the honor with *humbleness*. [=(more commonly) *humility*] – **hum·bly** /ˈhʌmbli/ *adv* ▪ The business began *humbly* but quickly became successful. ▪ She accepted his compliments *humbly*.

²humble *verb* **hum·bles**; **hum·bled**; **hum·bling** [+ *obj*]

1 : to make (someone) feel less important or proud : to make (someone) humble ▪ The experience *humbled* him. ▪ Her success has *humbled* her critics.

2 : to easily defeat (someone or something) in a way that is surprising or not expected ▪ Last year's champion was *humbled* by an unknown newcomer.

humble yourself : to do or say something which shows that you know you have been wrong, have behaved with too much pride, etc. ▪ He needs to *humble himself* and ask for their forgiveness.

– **humbling** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ It was a *humbling* experience for me. ▪ a very *humbling* defeat

hum·bug /ˈhʌmˌbʌg/ *noun, pl* **-bugs**

1 [*noncount*] : language or behavior that is false or meant to deceive people ▪ Their claims are *humbug*. ▪ She's only 30? *Humbug*!

2 [*count*] *old-fashioned* : someone or something that is not honest or true ▪ He's just an old *humbug*. [=(more commonly) *fraud*]

3 [*count*] *Brit* : a hard peppermint candy

hum·ding·er /ˈhʌmˈdɪŋɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *informal* : something that is very impressive or exciting ▪ The last storm was a real *humdinger*! ▪ I hear we're in for another *humdinger* of a storm!

hum·drum /ˈhʌmˌdrʌm/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not interesting : dull, boring, and ordinary ▪ She liked the movie, but I thought it was *humdrum*. ▪ another *humdrum* day at the office ▪ *humdrum* chores

hu·mer·us /ˈhju:mərəs/ *noun, pl* **hu·meri** /ˈhju:məˌraɪ/ [*count*] *medical* : the long bone of the upper arm between the shoulder and the elbow — see picture at HUMAN

hu·mid /ˈhju:məd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having a lot of moisture in the air ▪ *humid* weather ▪ a *humid* climate/day/season ▪ It's very hot and *humid* [=*muggy*] today.

hu·mid·i·fi·er /hjuˈmɪdəˌfajɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a machine that adds moisture to the air in a room — compare DEHUMIDIFIER

hu·mid·i·ty /hjuˈmɪdəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] : moisture in the air ▪ the *humidity* of the region ▪ It's not the heat that will get you—it's the *humidity*. : the amount of moisture in the air ▪

The temperature is 67 degrees with *humidity* at 75 percent. ▪ an area of low/high *humidity*

hu•mil•i•ate /hju'mɪli,eɪt/ *verb* **-ates**; **-at•ed**; **-at•ing** [+ *obj*] : to make (someone) feel very ashamed or foolish ▪ I hope I don't *humiliate* myself during the presentation. ▪ He accused her of trying to *humiliate* him in public. ▪ She was hurt and deeply *humiliated* by the lies he told about her. – **humiliating** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ It was a *humiliating* defeat. – **hu•mil•i•a•tion** /hju,mɪli'eɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*noncount*] I can't take any more *humiliation*. [*count*] The loss would be one more *humiliation* for our team.

hu•mil•i•ty /hju'mɪlәti/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the quality or state of not thinking you are better than other people : the quality or state of being humble ▪ He accepted the honor with *humility*. ▪ The ordeal taught her *humility*.

hum•mer /'hʌmɚ/ *noun, pl* **-mers** [*count*] *US, informal* : HUMMINGBIRD ▪ A *hummer* was feeding at the flowers.

hum•ming•bird /'hʌmɪŋ,bɚd/ *noun, pl* **-birds** [*count*] : a very small, brightly colored American bird that has wings which beat very fast — see color picture on page C9

hum•mock /'hʌmәk/ *noun, pl* **-mocks** [*count*] : a small hill

hum•mus /'hʊmәs/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a soft food made of ground chickpeas, garlic, and oil

hu•mon•gous *also* **hu•mun•gous** /hju'mʌŋgәs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *informal* : very large : HUGE ▪ a *humongous* dish of ice cream

[1]hu•mor (*US*) *or Brit* **hu•mour** /'hju:mɚ/ *noun*

1 [*noncount*] **a** : a funny or amusing quality ▪ He didn't appreciate the *humor* of the situation. ▪ Someday, you'll see the *humor* in this. ▪ Everyone likes the gentle *humor* of his stories of family life. **b** : jokes, funny stories, etc., of a particular kind ▪ She doesn't care for ethnic *humor*. ▪ The book is a collection of American *humor*. — see also GALLOWS HUMOR

2 [*noncount*] : the ability to be funny or to be amused by things that are funny ▪ His *humor* is one of his most attractive qualities. ▪ She has a great ***sense of humor***. [=she says funny things and can see the funny side of things] ▪ He has no *sense of humor*. [=he does not find things amusing]

3 *formal* : the way someone feels emotionally [*singular*] She was in a good/bad *humor* [=(more commonly) *mood*] all day. [*noncount*] He answered the reporter's questions with charm and ***good humor***. [=in a friendly and cheerful way] — compare GOOD-HUMORED, ILL-HUMORED

– **hu•mor•less** (*US*) *or Brit* **hu•mour•less** /'hju:mɚlәs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ a dour and *humorless* man ▪ The film is completely *humorless*.

[2]humor (*US*) *or Brit* **humour** *verb* **-mors**; **-mored**; **-mor•ing** [+ *obj*] : to try to please or satisfy (someone) by doing what is wanted ▪ The only way to get along with him is to *humor* him. ▪ I know you don't agree, but just *humor* me. [=listen to me]

hu•mor•ist /'hju:mәrɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] : someone (such as a writer) who tells funny stories

hu•mor•ous /'hju:mәrәs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : causing laughter : FUNNY ▪ a *humorous* story ▪ a *humorous* writer ▪ The book is very *humorous*. – **hu•mor•ous•ly** *adv* ▪ a *humorously* misleading sign

humour *Brit spelling of* HUMOR

[1]hump /'hʌmp/ *noun, pl* **humps** [*count*]

1 : a rounded lump on the surface of something: such as **a** : a raised, rounded part of a road ▪ a rough road with many *humps* [=*bulges*] and bumps **b** : a lump on the back of an animal (such as a camel) **c** : a lump on the back of a person whose spine is curved in an abnormal way

2 ***the hump*** *Brit, informal* : a state in which you are angry or upset ▪ She ***gets the hump*** when she loses. = Losing ***gives her the hump***. [=she becomes angry or upset when she loses]

over the hump *informal* : past the most difficult part of something (such as a project or job) ▪ A few more months of hard work should be enough to get/put us *over the hump* on this project.

– **humped** /'hʌmpt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ a *humped* back

[2]hump *verb* **humps**; **humped**; **hump•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 *chiefly Brit* : to carry (something heavy) ▪ They had to *hump* [=*lug*] the supplies far into the jungle.

2 *offensive* : to have sex with (someone)

hump•back /'hʌmp,bæk/ *noun, pl* **-backs** [*count*]

1 : HUMPBACK WHALE

2 a : HUNCHBACK 1 **b** *offensive* : HUNCHBACK 2

– **hump•backed** /'hʌmp'bækt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ a *humpbacked* fish

humpback whale *noun, pl* ~ **whales** [*count*] : a type of large whale that has a curved back and very long flippers

humungous *variant spelling of* HUMONGOUS

hu•mus /'hju:mәs/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a brown or black material in soil that is formed when plants and animals decay

[1]hunch /'hʌnʧ/ *verb* **hunch•es**; **hunched**; **hunch•ing**

1 [*no obj*] : to bend your body forward and down so that your back is rounded ▪ The generals were *hunched* [=*bent*] over the table reading a map.

2 [+ *obj*] : to raise (your shoulders or back) while bending your head forward especially to hide or protect your face ▪ He *hunched* his shoulders as he headed out into the storm.

[2]hunch *noun, pl* **hunches** [*count*] : a belief or idea about something (especially a future event) that is not based on facts or evidence ▪ My *hunch* is that the stock is going to go up in value. ▪ "How did you know I'd be here?" "It was just a *hunch*." ▪ I ***had a hunch*** [=*had a feeling*] (that) I'd see you here. ▪ She was ***acting on a hunch***. = (*chiefly US*) She was ***playing a hunch***.

hunch•back /'hʌnʧ,bæk/ *noun, pl* **-backs** [*count*]

1 : a back in which the spine is curved in an abnormal way

2 *offensive* : a person with a hunchback

– **hunch•backed** /'hʌnʧ'bækt/ *adj* ▪ a *hunchbacked* old man/woman

hun•dred /'hʌndrәd/ *noun, pl* **-dreds**

1 *pl* ***hundred*** [*count*] : the number 100 ▪ a/one *hundred* (of them) ▪ a *hundred* and one = one *hundred* and one = (*chiefly US*) a *hundred* one [=101] ▪ two/several *hundred* (of them)

2 ***hundreds*** [*plural*] **a** : an amount that is more than 200 ▪ *Hundreds* (and *hundreds*) (of them) came. = They came ***in the hundreds***. = (*chiefly Brit*) They came ***in their hundreds***. **b** — used to refer to a specified century ▪ The bridge was built some time in the sixteen-*hundreds*. [=the 1600s; the 17th century]

3 [*count*] : a very large number — usually plural ▪ I've seen that movie *hundreds* of times. [=many times]

4 [*count*] *US* : a hundred-dollar bill : a bill that is worth 100 dollars ▪ Can you give me change for a *hundred*? ▪ He paid with a couple of *hundreds*.

ninety-nine times out of a hundred *informal* : almost always ▪ *Ninety-nine times out of a hundred*, you can fix the problem by restarting the computer.

– **hundred** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ a *hundred* employees [=100 employees] ▪ several *hundred* people ▪ We drove a few *hundred* miles today. ▪ I've seen that movie a *hundred* times. [=many times] – **hundreds** *pronoun* ▪ *Hundreds* (of them) came. – **hun•dredth** /'hʌndrәdθ/ *noun, pl* **-dredths** [*count*] ▪ one *hundredth* of a second = one one-*hundredth* of a second [=1/100 second] – **hundredth** *adj* ▪ the *hundredth* person to join – **hundredth** *adv* ▪ the nation's *hundredth* largest city

hun•dred•weight /'hʌndrәd,weɪt/ *noun, pl* **-weight** *or* **-weights** [*count*] : a unit of weight equal to 100 pounds in the U.S. or to 112 pounds in the U.K.

hung *past tense and past participle of* [1]HANG

Hun•gar•i•an /,hʌŋ'gerijәn/ *noun, pl* **-ans**

1 [*count*] : a person born, raised, or living in Hungary

2 [*noncount*] : the language of the Hungarian people

– **Hungarian** *adj* ▪ *Hungarian* food ▪ a *Hungarian* word

[1]hun•ger /'hʌŋgɚ/ *noun, pl* **-gers**

1 [*noncount*] **a** : a very great need for food : a severe lack of food ▪ She has been a leader in the fight against world *hunger*. ▪ Thousands of people there are ***dying from/of hunger***. [=dying because they do not have enough food; starving to death] **b** : an uncomfortable feeling in your stomach that is caused by the need for food ▪ One sandwich wasn't enough to satisfy his *hunger*. ▪ *hunger* pangs

2 [*count*] : a strong desire ▪ spiritual/sexual *hungers* : a strong desire *for* something or *to do* something ▪ Her students have a genuine *hunger for* knowledge. ▪ a *hunger to succeed* = a *hunger for* success — compare THIRST

from hunger *US, informal* : of very bad quality : very poorly done ▪ The film's scenery is beautiful, but the plot is (strictly) *from hunger*.

[2]hunger *verb* **-gers**; **-gered**; **-ger•ing** [*no obj*] *literary* : to have or feel a strong desire ▪ He *hungered* to succeed. — usually + *after* or *for* ▪ He *hungered after* success. ▪ The nation *hungers for* a strong leader. — compare THIRST

hunger strike *noun, pl* ~ **strikes** [*count*] : the act of refusing to eat as a way of showing that you strongly disagree with or disapprove of something ▪ She has threatened to ***go on a hunger strike*** [=refuse to eat] if her colleagues are not released from prison.

– **hunger striker** *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*]

hung jury *noun, pl* ~ **juries** [*count*] *law* : a jury whose members cannot agree about what the verdict should be ▪ The trial ended with a *hung jury* and the judge declared a mistrial.

hung over *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : sick because you drank too much alcohol at an earlier time : suffering from a hangover ▪ He woke up groggy and *hung over*.

hung parliament *noun, pl* ~ **-ments** [*count*] *Brit* : a parliament in which no political party has a clear majority

hun•gry /ˈhʌŋgri/ *adj* **hun•gri•er; -est**

1 a : suffering because of a lack of food : greatly affected by hunger ▪ There are millions of *hungry* people throughout the world. ▪ Too many people in the world ***go hungry*** every day. [=suffer every day because they do not have enough food to eat] **b** : having an uncomfortable feeling in your stomach because you need food : feeling hunger ▪ That girl is always *hungry*. ▪ I'm *hungry*. When's dinner? ▪ I feel *hungry*.

2 *not used before a noun* : feeling a strong desire or need *for* something or *to do* something ▪ The prisoners' families were *hungry for* more information. ▪ They were *hungry to learn* more. ▪ *hungry for* success/attention/power — often used in combination ▪ power-*hungry* politicians

3 *always used before a noun* : showing hunger or desire ▪ *hungry* eyes ▪ a *hungry* look

4 : feeling a strong desire and determination to succeed ▪ The coach wants the players to stay *hungry*. [=to continue feeling a strong desire to win]

– **hun•gri•ly** /ˈhʌŋgrəli/ *adv* ▪ The dog stared *hungrily* at the food on the table.

hung up *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *informal*

1 *US* : delayed for a time ▪ She got *hung up* at the airport. [=she had to be at the airport longer than she expected to be]

2 : thinking or worrying too much about something or someone ▪ Many people are *hung up* about their physical appearance. — usually + *on* ▪ He's still *hung up on* his ex-wife. ▪ students who are *hung up on* getting perfect grades

hunk /ˈhʌŋk/ *noun, pl* **hunks** [*count*]

1 : a large lump or piece of something ▪ a *hunk* of cheese/bread ▪ a steak cut into meaty *hunks*

2 *informal* : an attractive man ▪ That actor is such a *hunk*!

– **hunk•y** /ˈhʌŋki/ *adj* **hunk•i•er; -est** *informal* ▪ That actor is so *hunky*!

hun•ker /ˈhʌŋkɚ/ *verb* **-kers; -kered; -ker•ing** [*no obj*] *chiefly US* : to lower your body to the ground by bending your legs ▪ The hikers *hunkered* (down) under a cliff until the storm passed.

hunker down [*phrasal verb*] : to stay in a place for a period of time ▪ The leaders *hunkered down* at a country estate for difficult peace negotiations.

hunk•y–do•ry /ˌhʌŋkiˈdori/ *adj, not used before a noun* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *informal* : free of trouble or problems : FINE ▪ Everything is *hunky-dory* right now.

[1]hunt /ˈhʌnt/ *verb* **hunts; hunt•ed; hunt•ing**

1 : to chase and kill (wild animals) for food or pleasure [+ *obj*] The wolf was *hunting* its prey. ▪ These birds have been *hunted* almost to extinction. ▪ a gun used for *hunting* squirrels [*no obj*] He likes to *hunt* and fish.

2 : to search for something or someone very carefully and thoroughly [*no obj*] She *hunted* around in the closet for a pair of shoes. — often + *for* ▪ The police are *hunting for* a killer. ▪ He's *hunting for* a new apartment. ▪ We went to the mall to *hunt for* bargains. [+ *obj*] Police *hunted* the escaped prisoners through several states. ▪ (*US*) We went to the mall to *hunt* bargains.

hunt down [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***hunt (something) down or hunt down (something)*** : to succeed in finding (something) ▪ It may take me a while to *hunt down* the phone number. **2** ***hunt (someone) down or hunt down (someone)*** : to find and capture (someone) ▪ The killer was *hunted down* with help from his relatives.

hunt out [*phrasal verb*] ***hunt (something) out or hunt out (something)*** : to find (something) after searching for it ▪ It took a while to *hunt out* the papers, but we finally found everything we needed.

hunt up [*phrasal verb*] ***hunt (someone or something) up or hunt up (someone or something)*** : to succeed in finding (someone or something) ▪ You can *hunt up* a good car at a fair price if you try.

[2]hunt *noun, pl* **hunts** [*count*]

1 : an occasion when people hunt wild animals ▪ They went on a *hunt*. ▪ a bear/fox/pheasant *hunt*

2 : an act of searching for something or someone ▪ We finally found a good restaurant after a long *hunt*. ▪ The *hunt* for the escaped convicts continues. = The *hunt* is still on for the escaped convicts. = The police are still ***on the hunt*** [=are still searching] for the escaped convicts. — see also SCAVENGER HUNT, TREASURE HUNT, WITCH HUNT

3 *chiefly Brit* : a group of people who hunt foxes together

in the hunt *US* : having a chance to win or succeed in a contest or competition ▪ At this point in the season, both teams are still *in the hunt*. [=both teams have a chance of winning the championship]

hunt–and–peck /ˌhʌntn̩ˈpɛk/ *noun* [*noncount*] *informal* : a method of typing that involves looking at the keyboard and using only one finger of each hand to press the keys

hunt•er /ˈhʌntɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

1 a : a person who hunts wild animals ▪ a deer *hunter* **b** : a person who searches for something ▪ My mother is a bargain-*hunter*. [=a person who searches for good prices on items to buy] ▪ job-*hunters* [=people trying to find jobs; job-seekers] — see also BOUNTY HUNTER

2 : a strong horse that people use when they hunt foxes

hunt•er–gath•er•er /ˈhʌntɚˈgæðərɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a member of a culture in which people hunt animals and look for plants to eat instead of growing crops and raising animals ▪ a tribe of *hunter-gatherers*

hunt•ing /ˈhʌntɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : the activity or sport of chasing and killing wild animals ▪ His hobbies include *hunting* and fishing. ▪ The law prohibits the *hunting* of migratory birds. ▪ big-game *hunting* ▪ She likes to ***go hunting***. ▪ We *went hunting* for bear. = We *went* bear-*hunting*. — often used before another noun ▪ *hunting* boots ▪ a *hunting* accident ▪ the *hunting* season ▪ a *hunting* dog [=a dog people use when they hunt] — see also FOXHUNTING, HEAD-HUNTING

2 : the activity of searching for something ▪ bargain-*hunting* ▪ job-*hunting*

hunt•ress /ˈhʌntrəs/ *noun, pl* **-ress•es** [*count*] *literary* : a woman who hunts wild animals

hunts•man /ˈhʌntsmən/ *noun, pl* **-men** /-mən/ [*count*] *formal*

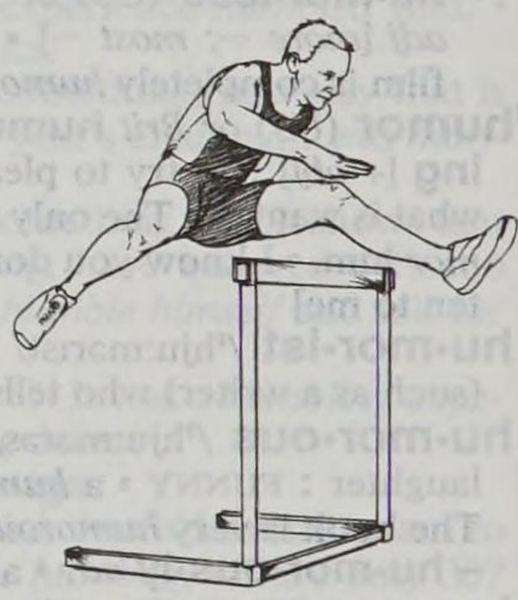
1 : a person (especially a man) who hunts wild animals

2 : a person (especially a man) who manages a group of people who are hunting wild animals

[1]hur•dle /ˈhɚdl̩/ *noun, pl* **hur•dles**

1 a [*count*] : one of a series of barriers to be jumped over in a race **b** ***the hurdles*** : a race in which runners must jump over hurdles ▪ He won a medal in *the* high *hurdles*. — usually used with a singular verb ▪ *The hurdles* is his best event.

2 [*count*] : something that makes an achievement difficult ▪ The company faces severe financial *hurdles* this year. ▪ She overcame many *hurdles* [=*obstacles*] on her way to earning a college diploma.



hurdle

[2]hurdle *verb* **hur•dles; hur•dled; hur•dling** [+ *obj*]

1 : to jump over (something) while running ▪ The horse *hurdled* the fence.

2 : to deal with (a problem or difficulty) successfully ▪ She *hurdled* [=*overcame*] many obstacles on her way to earning a college diploma.

– **hur•dler** /ˈhɚdl̩ɚ/ *noun, pl* **hur•dlers** [*count*]

hur•dy–gur•dy /ˌhɚdiˈgɚdi/ *noun, pl* **-dies** [*count*]

1 : a stringed musical instrument that is played by turning a handle

2 : BARREL ORGAN

hurl /ˈhɚrəl/ *verb* **hurls; hurled; hurl•ing** /ˈhɚlɪŋ/

1 [+ *obj*] : to throw (something) with force ▪ Someone *hurled* a rock through the window. ▪ He *hurled* a chair at me. ▪ It looked like she was going to *hurl* herself down the stairs.

2 [+ *obj*] : to say or shout (something, such as an insult) in a loud and forceful way ▪ The protesters *hurled* insults at us.

3 [*no obj*] *US slang* : VOMIT

– **hurl•er** /ˈhɚlɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ a baseball team with several talented *hurlers* [=*pitchers*]

hur•ly–bur•ly /ˌhɚliˈbɚli/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a very active or confused state or situation ▪ the *hurly-burly* of politics ▪ We

left the *hurly-burly* of city life and moved to the countryside.

hur•rah /hʊˈrɑː/ *or* **hoo•ray** /hʊˈreɪ/ *also* **hur•ray** /hʊˈreɪ/ *interj* — used to express joy, approval, or encouragement ▪ *Hurrah*! I got the job! ▪ Hip, hip, *hooray*! — sometimes + *for* ▪ *Hurrah for* the home team! — see also LAST HURRAH

hur•ri•cane /ˈhɚəˌkeɪn, *Brit* ˈhʌrəkən/ *noun, pl* **-canes** [*count*] : an extremely large, powerful, and destructive storm with very strong winds that occurs especially in the western part of the Atlantic Ocean

hur•ried /ˈhɚid/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : happening or done very quickly or too quickly ▪ The general was forced to make a *hurried* decision. ▪ She had a *hurried* meeting with her advisers before speaking to the press. ▪ a *hurried* meal/departure
2 : working very quickly or too quickly ▪ a *hurried* waitress
– **hur•ried•ly** /ˈhɚədli/ *adv* ▪ a *hurriedly* scribbled note ▪ depart *hurriedly*

¹hur•ry /ˈhɚi/ *verb* **-ries**; **-ried**; **-ry•ing**
1 [*no obj*] : to move, act, or go quickly ▪ Take your time. There's no need to *hurry*. ▪ She *hurried* off to her class. ▪ He *hurried* after her. ▪ They *hurried* past us. ▪ *Hurry* (back) home now. ▪ We *hurried* through the lesson so that we could finish early. ▪ We'll miss our flight if we don't *hurry*. = If we don't *hurry* we'll miss our flight. — often + *up* ▪ If we don't *hurry up* we'll miss our flight. ▪ *Hurry up*! We're going to be late!
2 [+ *obj*] **a** : to make (someone) move, act, or go quickly ▪ She hates to be *hurried* [=*rushed*] at dinner. ▪ The teacher *hurried* us through the lesson. — often + *up* ▪ Somebody needs to *hurry* them *up* so we can leave. ▪ Could you ***hurry it up*** a little please? [=could you please do what you are doing a little more quickly?] **b** [+ *obj*] : to carry or send (someone or something) more quickly than usual ▪ They *hurried* the children off to bed. ▪ A messenger *hurried* [=*rushed*] the package across town.
3 [+ *obj*] **a** : to increase the speed of (something) ▪ He heard the train coming and *hurried* his pace. [=he began to walk more quickly] **b** : to do (something) quickly or too quickly ▪ Don't *hurry* [=*rush*] your homework. ▪ The quarterback was forced to *hurry* his throw.
hurry up and wait *US, informal* — used to describe a situation in which you are forced to spend a lot of time waiting ▪ My father says that all he did in the army was *hurry up and wait*. — sometimes used as a noun phrase ▪ Traveling often involves a lot of *hurry up and wait*. [=a lot of waiting]

²hurry *noun* [*noncount*] : a need to do something more quickly than usual : RUSH ▪ "Come on, let's go." "What's the (big) *hurry*?" [=why do we need to hurry?] ▪ Why the *hurry*? ▪ Take your time. There's no (great) *hurry*. ▪ In her *hurry* to leave she forgot her briefcase.
in a hurry **1** : very quickly ▪ The weather got worse *in a hurry*. **2** : feeling a strong need to move, act, or go quickly ▪ He was *in* too much of *a hurry* to stop and say hello. ▪ teenagers who are *in a* (big) *hurry* to grow up [=who are eager to grow up; who want to grow up quickly] ▪ We're ***not in a/any hurry***. = We're ***in no hurry***. [=we do not need to hurry; we have plenty of time] — sometimes used to say that someone does not want to do something ▪ It was getting late, but our guests were *not in a/any hurry* to leave. = Our guests were *in no hurry* to leave. [=we wanted our guests to leave, but they did not seem to want to leave] ▪ I'm *in no* (particular/big/great) *hurry* to go to the dentist.

¹hurt /ˈhɚt/ *verb* **hurts**; **hurt**; **hurt•ing**
1 a [+ *obj*] : to cause pain or injury to (yourself, someone else, or a part of your body) ▪ Be careful with that knife or you could *hurt* yourself. ▪ Ouch! You're *hurting* my arm! ▪ I *hurt* my back (while) carrying a heavy box up the stairs. ▪ She was badly/seriously *hurt* in a car accident. ▪ My tooth/back still *hurts* me. ▪ Don't worry about the dog—he ***wouldn't hurt a fly***. [=the dog would never bite or attack anyone; the dog is very gentle] ***synonyms*** see INJURE **b** [*no obj*] : to be a source or cause of pain ▪ My tooth/back *hurts* (a lot/little). ▪ It *hurts* [=it is painful] to walk on hot pavement with bare feet. ▪ The injection didn't *hurt* at all. = It didn't *hurt* a bit. ▪ Ouch! That *hurts*! ▪ My arm *hurts* very badly. = (*informally*) My arm ***hurts like hell***. ▪ My leg *hurt*. = (*chiefly US*) My leg ***was hurting***. **c** [*no obj*] : to feel physical pain ▪ When I woke up this morning I *hurt* all over.
2 a [+ *obj*] : to make (someone) sad or upset : to cause (someone) to suffer emotionally ▪ Their lack of interest in her work *hurt* her deeply. ▪ You're only *hurting* yourself by holding a grudge against them. ▪ It *hurt* me to see her go. ▪ It *hurts* me to say this [=I don't enjoy saying this], but I just don't think you can do the job. ▪ I can't tell him the meal was bad because I don't want to ***hurt his feelings***. [=hurt him; make him sad or upset] **b** [*no obj*] : to feel emotional pain or distress ▪ My sister has really ***been hurting*** [=has been very upset and unhappy] since her boyfriend left her.
3 : to do harm to (someone or something) : to affect (someone or something) in a bad or harmful way : DAMAGE [+ *obj*] The lack of rain has *hurt* the corn crop. ▪ If we lose this game it will seriously *hurt* our chances of making the playoffs. ▪ These new regulations will *hurt* small businesses. ▪ *hurt* profits/sales ▪ There's no doubt that this scandal has *hurt* her image. ▪ Would it *hurt* you to cook dinner for once? = It wouldn't *hurt* you to cook dinner for once. [=you should cook dinner] ▪ As far as he's concerned, ***what he doesn't know can't/won't hurt him***. [=he would rather not know about something; he thinks that if he does not know about something, he cannot be damaged by it, blamed for it, etc.] [*no obj*] The company needs to cut spending, even if it *hurts*. — usually used in negative statements ▪ I know he's qualified for the job, but ***it doesn't hurt*** [=it helps] that the company president is his mother's best friend. ▪ It ***wouldn't hurt*** to try a little harder. [=you should try a little harder] ▪ We may not finish on time, but it ***won't hurt*** to try. [=we should try] ▪ "Should I ask her for a job?" "It ***couldn't/can't hurt*** (to ask)." [=she may give you a job if you ask]
4 [*no obj*] : to have many problems : to be in a bad situation or condition ▪ Those poor people ***are hurting*** and need our help. ▪ The local economy *is hurting* right now. [=it is doing poorly]
hurt for [*phrasal verb*] *US, informal* **1** ***hurt for (something)*** : to lack (something needed) ▪ Those children ***are hurting for*** attention. [=those children need to be given more attention] ▪ The company *is hurting for* money right now. **2** ***hurt for (someone)*** : to have sympathy or pity for (someone) ▪ I *hurt for* [=*feel for*] those poor people.

²hurt *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : having a physical injury ▪ Those who are most badly/seriously *hurt* [=*injured*] will be cared for first. ▪ She has a *hurt* back.
2 : feeling or showing emotional pain ▪ She gave him a *hurt* look. ▪ *hurt* [=*wounded*] pride ▪ I was/felt deeply *hurt* by their refusal to help. [=I was very sad or upset because they refused to help] ▪ His behavior at the party caused a lot of ***hurt feelings***. [=it made many people upset or sad]

³hurt *noun, pl* **hurts** : mental or emotional pain [*noncount*] Her sympathy eased the *hurt* he felt after his dog's death. ▪ It takes a long time to get past the *hurt* [=*suffering*] of a bitter divorce. [*count*] They felt a great *hurt* after their bitter divorce. ▪ She tried to put past *hurts* behind her.
put the/a hurt on *US, informal* : to injure or damage (someone or something) ▪ If we adopt a more aggressive strategy, we can really *put the hurt on* our competitors. ▪ They really *put a hurt on* him. [=hurt/injured him very badly]

hurt•ful /ˈhɚtfəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : causing injury or emotional pain; *especially* : cruel or unkind ▪ She can't forgive him for the *hurtful* things he said. ▪ *hurtful* gossip ▪ Their comments were really *hurtful* to me.
– **hurt•ful•ly** *adv* ▪ He spoke *hurtfully* to her. – **hurt•ful•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

hur•tle /ˈhɚtl/ *verb* **hur•tles**; **hur•tled**; **hur•tling**
1 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* [*no obj*] : to move or fall with great speed and force ▪ Boulders *hurtled* down the hill. ▪ comets *hurtling* through space ▪ We kept to the side of the road as cars and trucks *hurtled* past us. — often used figuratively ▪ a country *hurtling* toward disaster
2 [+ *obj*] : to cause (something or someone) to move or go with great speed and force : HURL ▪ The protesters *hurtled* bottles at the police. ▪ He *hurtled* himself into the crowd.

¹hus•band /ˈhʌzbənd/ *noun, pl* **-bands** [*count*] : a married man : the man someone is married to ▪ Have you met her *husband*? ▪ They were ***husband and wife*** [=a married couple] for almost 60 years. — compare WIFE

²husband *verb* **-bands**; **-band•ed**; **-band•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to carefully use or manage (something, such as a resource) ▪ The country has *husbanded* its resources well.

hus•band•ry /ˈhʌzbəndri/ *noun* [*singular*] *formal* : the activity of raising plants or animals for food : FARMING ▪ crop *husbandry* — see also ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

¹hush /ˈhʌʃ/ *verb* **hush•es**; **hushed**; **hush•ing**
1 [+ *obj*] : to make (someone) quiet, calm, or still ▪ The woman in the seat behind me was trying to *hush* her baby. ▪ The judge *hushed* the spectators. — often used as *(be) hushed* ▪

The crowd *was hushed*. ▪ a *hushed* [=*quiet*] courtroom ▪ speaking in *hushed* [=*whispering*] tones

2 [*no obj*] : to become quiet ▪ The spectators *hushed* as the judge entered the courtroom. ▪ The room *hushed* [=people stopped talking, making noise, etc.] as the theater lights dimmed. — usually used to tell someone to be quiet ▪ *Hush*, children. I'm going to tell you a story.

hush up [*phrasal verb*] ***hush (something) up*** *or* ***hush up (something)*** : to prevent people from knowing the truth about (something, such as a crime) ▪ *hush up* a crime/scandal ▪ The city government tried to *hush* things *up* when the mayor was arrested.

²hush *noun* [*singular*] : a time of silence, stillness, or calm especially after noise ▪ A *hush* fell/came over the theater. = A *hush* settled/descended on the theater. [=the theater became quiet; people stopped talking, making noise, etc.]

hush–hush /ˈhʌʃˌhʌʃ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : kept secret : known only to a few people ▪ He wants to keep the relationship *hush-hush*. ▪ She works for a *hush-hush* government agency.

hush money *noun* [*noncount*] : money paid so that someone will keep information secret : money that you pay someone to hush something up ▪ He's accused of paying her *hush money* to keep their affair secret.

¹husk /ˈhʌsk/ *noun, pl* **husks** [*count*] : a usually thin, dry layer that covers some seeds and fruits ▪ a corn *husk* [=(*US*) *shuck*] — see color picture on page C4

²husk *verb* **husks**; **husked**; **husk•ing** [+ *obj*] : to remove the thin, dry layer that covers some seeds and fruits : to remove the husk from (something) ▪ Please *husk* [=(*US*) *shuck*] the corn while I set the table.

¹hus•ky /ˈhʌski/ *adj* **hus•ki•er**; **-est**

1 *of a voice* : sounding somewhat rough ▪ a *husky* [=*hoarse*] voice

2 : large and strong ▪ a *husky* [=*burly*] laborer

²husky *noun, pl* **hus•kies** [*count*] : a large dog with thick fur that is used for pulling sleds — see picture at DOG

hus•sy /ˈhʌsi/ *noun, pl* **-sies** [*count*] *old-fashioned* + *offensive* : a girl or woman who does things that people consider immoral, improper, etc. ▪ a brazen/wanton *hussy* ✧ *Hussy* is now rarely used except in a joking way.

hus•tings /ˈhʌstɪŋz/ *noun*

on the hustings : making speeches, meeting people, etc., in order to get people to vote for you : campaigning for a political office ▪ candidates who are (out) *on the hustings*

the hustings : the political speeches, meetings, etc., that happen before an election ▪ news reports from *the hustings*

¹hus•tle /ˈhʌsəl/ *verb* **hus•tles**; **hus•tled**; **hus•tling** /ˈhʌsəlɪŋ/

1 [+ *obj*] : to quickly move or push (someone) often in a rough way ▪ The guards *hustled* the prisoners into the jail. ▪ The star's manager *hustled* him out the back door of the theater to avoid the throngs of fans. ▪ She *hustled* the children (off) to school.

2 [*no obj*] *chiefly US* **a** : to move or work in a quick and energetic way ▪ If we want to catch that bus, we're going to have to *hustle*. [=*rush*] **b** : to play a sport with a lot of energy and effort ▪ He's not the most talented player on the team, but he always *hustles*.

3 *US, informal* **a** : to get (something, such as money) in an illegal or improper way [+ *obj*] She spent her mornings *hustling* change [=asking people for money] on the sidewalk. [*no obj*] *hustling* for money **b** [+ *obj*] : to sell (something illegal, such as drugs) ▪ He's been *hustling* drugs for a few years. : to sell (something) in an illegal or improper way ▪ They *hustle* diamonds, furs—whatever people are buying.

4 [+ *obj*] *informal* **a** : to take something and especially money from (someone) by lying or doing something unfair : to swindle or cheat (someone) ▪ She's accused of running an elaborate scam to *hustle* elderly people. **b** *chiefly US* : to earn money by playing (a gambling game) and especially by playing against people who are less skillful than you are ▪ He made a living by *hustling* pool.

5 [*no obj*] *US, informal* : to work as a prostitute

hustle up [*phrasal verb*] ***hustle up (something)*** *or* ***hustle (something) up*** *US, informal* : to quickly get or find (something) ▪ I'll try to *hustle up* [=*rustle up*] some tickets to tonight's game. ▪ Let's see if we can *hustle up* some grub. [=find something to eat]

²hustle *noun, pl* **hustles**

1 [*noncount*] **a** : energetic activity ▪ I enjoy the ***hustle and bustle*** of the city. **b** *chiefly US* : effort and energy in playing a sport ▪ The fans admire him for his *hustle*.

2 [*count*] *informal* : a dishonest plan for getting money ▪ She's always trying some kind of *hustle* [=*scam*] on the street.

hus•tler /ˈhʌslɚ/ *noun, pl* **hus•tlers** [*count*] : a person who hustles: such as **a** *chiefly US* : a person who regularly earns money by playing a gambling game ▪ a pool *hustler* **b** *chiefly US, informal* : PROSTITUTE

hut /ˈhʌt/ *noun, pl* **huts** [*count*] : a small and simple house or building ▪ a mud/wooden *hut* [=*shack*]

hutch /ˈhʌʧ/ *noun, pl* **hutch•es** [*count*]

1 *US* : a piece of furniture that is used for displaying and storing dishes — called also (*Brit*) *dresser*, (*Brit*) *Welsh dresser*

2 : an enclosed area or cage for an animal ▪ a rabbit *hutch*

HVAC *abbr* heating, ventilating, and air-conditioning; heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning

hwy *abbr* highway

hy•a•cinth /ˈhajəsɪnθ/ *noun, pl* **-cinths** [*count*] : a type of plant that is grown in gardens and has flowers that smell sweet

hy•brid /ˈhaɪbrəd/ *noun, pl* **-brids** [*count*]

1 : an animal or plant that is produced from two animals or plants of different kinds ▪ a *hybrid* of two roses

2 : something that is formed by combining two or more things ▪ The band plays a *hybrid* of jazz and rock.

– **hybrid** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ a *hybrid* rose/tree ▪ The car is a *hybrid* vehicle that uses both electricity and gasoline.

hy•dra /ˈhaɪdrə/ *noun, pl* **-dras**

1 ***Hydra*** [*singular*] : a monster in Greek mythology that has many heads

2 [*count*] : a very complicated and serious problem that cannot be easily solved ▪ trying to slay the *hydra* of inflation

hy•drant /ˈhaɪdrənt/ *noun, pl* **-drants** [*count*] : FIRE HYDRANT

¹hy•drate /ˈhaɪˌdreɪt/ *noun, pl* **-drates** [*count*] *technical* : a substance that is formed when water combines with another substance

²hydrate *verb* **-drates**; **-drat•ed**; **-drat•ing** [+ *obj*] *somewhat technical* : to add water or moisture to (something) ▪ lotions and creams that *hydrate* the skin : to supply (something) with water ▪ Drink fluids to *hydrate* the body. — opposite DEHYDRATE

– **hydrated** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ Remember to stay *hydrated*. [=to drink enough water] – **hy•dra•tion** /haɪˈdreɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

hy•drau•lic /haɪˈdrɑːlɪk/ *adj*

1 : operated by the pressure of a fluid ▪ *hydraulic* brakes ▪ the airplane's *hydraulic* system

2 : occurring or used in a hydraulic system ▪ *hydraulic* fluid ▪ *hydraulic* pressure

– **hy•drau•li•cal•ly** /haɪˈdrɑːlɪkli/ *adv* ▪ *hydraulically* controlled brakes

hy•drau•lics /haɪˈdrɑːlɪks/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the science that deals with ways to use liquid (such as water) when it is moving

hy•dro•car•bon /ˈhaɪdroʊˌkɑɚbən/ *noun, pl* **-bons** [*count*] *technical* : a substance (such as coal or natural gas) that contains only carbon and hydrogen

hy•dro•chlo•ric acid /ˌhaɪdrəˈklorɪk-/ *noun* [*noncount*] *chemistry* : a strong acid that is used especially in scientific experiments and in manufacturing

hy•dro•elec•tric /ˌhaɪdrowɪˈlɛktrɪk/ *adj, technical* : of or relating to the production of electricity by using machines that are powered by moving water ▪ a *hydroelectric* dam ▪ *hydroelectric* power

– **hy•dro•elec•tric•i•ty** /ˌhaɪdrowɪˌlɛkˈtrɪsəti/ *noun* [*noncount*]

hy•dro•foil /ˈhaɪdrəˌfojəl/ *noun, pl* **-foils** [*count*] : a very fast boat that rises partly out of the water when moving at high speeds

hy•dro•gen /ˈhaɪdrəʤən/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a chemical element that has no color or smell and that is the simplest, lightest, and most common element

hy•dro•ge•nat•ed /ˌhaɪˈdrɑːʤəˌneɪtəd/ *adj, technical, of an oil or fat* : having hydrogen added ▪ *hydrogenated* fats/oils ▪ The study showed that ***partially hydrogenated*** oils increase the risk of heart disease.

hydrogen bomb *noun, pl* ~ **bombs** [*count*] : a bomb that produces an extremely powerful and destructive explosion when hydrogen atoms unite — called also *H-bomb*

hydrogen peroxide *noun* [*noncount*] : a liquid that is used to make things lighter in color or to kill bacteria

hy•dro•plane /ˈhaɪdrəˌpleɪn/ *noun, pl* **-planes** [*count*] : a boat that is designed to move over the surface of water at very high speeds

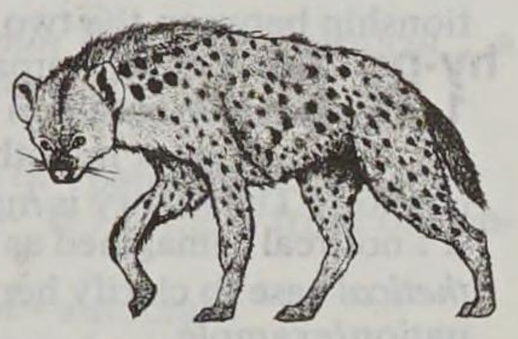
hydroplane *verb* **-planes**; **-planed**; **-plan•ing** [*no obj*] *US, of a vehicle* : to slide on a wet road because a thin layer of water on the road causes the tires to lose contact with it ▪ The car started *hydroplaning* and skidded off the road.

hy•dro•pon•ics /ˌhaɪdrəˈpɑːnɪks/ *noun* [*noncount*] *technical* : a method of growing plants in water rather than in soil
– **hy•dro•pon•ic** /ˌhaɪdrəˈpɑːnɪk/ *adj* ▪ *hydroponic* gardening/vegetables

hy•dro•pow•er /ˈhaɪdrəˌpawɚ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : electricity produced from machines that are run by moving water

hy•dro•ther•a•py /ˌhaɪdrəˈθerəpi/ *noun, pl* **-pies** [*count, noncount*] : the use of water in the treatment of disease or injury

hy•e•na /haɪˈiːnə/ *noun, pl* **-nas** [*count*] : a large animal of Asia and Africa that eats the flesh of dead animals ▪ a pack of *hyenas* ✧ The call of the hyena sounds like very loud laughter, and the hyena is sometimes referred to as a ***laughing hyena***. A person who is laughing in a loud or foolish way is sometimes described as ***laughing like a hyena***.



hyena

hy•giene /ˈhaɪˌʤiːn/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the things that you do to keep yourself and your surroundings clean in order to maintain good health ▪ Poor sanitation and *hygiene* caused many of the soldiers to get sick. ▪ He has very poor personal *hygiene*. ▪ Brushing your teeth regularly is an important part of good dental/oral *hygiene*.

hy•gien•ic /haɪˈʤiːnɪk, haɪˈʤɛnɪk/ *adj*
1 : relating to being clean and the the things that are done to maintain good health : of or relating to hygiene ▪ For *hygienic* reasons, restaurants should wash silverware and drinking glasses more than once.
2 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : clean and likely to maintain good health : having or showing good hygiene ▪ The *hygienic* conditions of the operating room are maintained by the nursing staff. ▪ The prisoners' living quarters were not *hygienic*.
– **hy•gien•i•cal•ly** /haɪˈʤiːnɪkli, haiˈʤɛnɪkli/ *adv*

hy•gien•ist /haɪˈʤiːnɪst, haɪˈʤɛnɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] : DENTAL HYGIENIST

hy•men /ˈhaɪmən/ *noun, pl* **-mens** [*count*] : a fold of tissue that partly covers the opening of the vagina

hymn /ˈhɪm/ *noun, pl* **hymns** [*count*] : a religious song : a song that praises God ▪ sing a *hymn* of praise/thanksgiving ▪ a book of *hymns* = a *hymn* book — sometimes used figuratively ▪ This sentimental novel is a *hymn* to childhood and innocence. [=the novel praises childhood and innocence]

hym•nal /ˈhɪmnəl/ *noun, pl* **-nals** [*count*] : a book of hymns

hype /ˈhaɪp/ *noun* [*noncount*] *informal + often disapproving* : talk or writing that is intended to make people excited about or interested in something or someone ▪ There was a great deal of media *hype* surrounding the senator's announcement. ▪ After months of promotional *hype*, the band finally released their new album.

hype *verb* **hypes**; **hyped**; **hyp•ing** [+ *obj*] *informal + often disapproving* : to talk or write about (something or someone) in a way that is intended to make people excited or interested ▪ He's being *hyped* (up) as the next big rap star. ▪ Company executives have been *hyping* the new software for months.
hype up [*phrasal verb*] ***hype (someone) up*** *or* ***hype up (someone)*** *informal* : to make (someone) very excited ▪ The announcer was trying to *hype* the crowd *up* before the show started. — often used as *hyped up* ▪ I was so *hyped up*, I couldn't sleep.

hy•per /ˈhaɪpɚ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *informal* : very excited, nervous, or active ▪ a *hyper* [=*hyperactive*] kid ▪ I get a little *hyper* when I drink too much coffee.

hyper- /ˈhaɪpɚ/ *prefix*
1 : excessively or extremely ▪ *hyper*active ▪ *hyper*sensitive
2 : excessive or extreme ▪ *hyper*sensitivity ▪ *hyper*tension

hy•per•ac•tive /ˌhaɪpɚˈæktɪv/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : extremely active or too active ▪ *hyperactive* children ▪ All of these wild characters are products of the author's *hyperactive* [=*overactive*] imagination.
– **hy•per•ac•tiv•i•ty** /ˌhaɪpɚˌækˈtɪvəti/ *noun* [*noncount*]

hy•per•bo•le /haɪˈpɚbəli/ *noun, pl* **-les** : language that describes something as better or worse than it really is [*noncount*] In describing his accomplishments, he's somewhat given to *hyperbole*. [=he tends to exaggerate his accomplishments] [*count*] The customer's letter of complaint was filled with *hyperboles* [=(more commonly) *exaggerations*] and outrageous claims.
– **hy•per•bol•ic** /ˌhaɪpɚˈbɑːlɪk/ *adj* ▪ *hyperbolic* [=(more commonly) *exaggerated*] claims about his accomplishments

hy•per•crit•i•cal /ˌhaɪpɚˈkrɪtɪkəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : criticizing other people or things too strongly or too often ▪ a *hypercritical* boss ▪ a *hypercritical* movie review

hy•per•drive /ˈhaɪpɚˌdraɪv/ *noun* [*noncount*] *chiefly US, informal* : a state of extremely fast activity ▪ With only a few weeks left before the election, the campaign has shifted into *hyperdrive*. [=has shifted into overdrive; has become extremely active]

hy•per•in•fla•tion /ˌhaɪpɚɪnˈfleɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] : extremely rapid increase in the price of goods and services : extremely rapid economic inflation

hy•per•link /ˈhaɪpɚˌlɪŋk/ *noun, pl* **-links** [*count*] *computers* : a highlighted word or picture in a document or Web page that you can click on with a computer mouse to go to another place in the same or a different document or Web page

hy•per•mar•ket /ˈhaɪpɚˌmɑɚkət/ *noun, pl* **-ets** [*count*] *chiefly Brit* : a very large supermarket

hy•per•sen•si•tive /ˌhaɪpɚˈsɛnsətɪv/ *adj* : very sensitive: such as **a** : having feelings that are very easily hurt ▪ a *hypersensitive* child ▪ She's *hypersensitive* about her past. **b** : very strongly and easily affected or harmed by something (such as a drug) ▪ People who are *hypersensitive* to the chemical may have violent reactions even to small amounts.
– **hy•per•sen•si•tiv•i•ty** /ˌhaɪpɚsɛnsəˈtɪvəti/ *noun* [*noncount*]

hy•per•ten•sion /ˌhaɪpɚˈtɛnʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : high blood pressure ▪ He's being treated for *hypertension*.
– **hy•per•ten•sive** /ˌhaɪpɚˈtɛnsɪv/ *adj* ▪ *hypertensive* patients

hy•per•text /ˈhaɪpɚˌtɛkst/ *noun* [*noncount*] *computers* : an arrangement of the information in a computer database that allows a user to get information and to go from one document to another by clicking on highlighted words or pictures

hy•per•ven•ti•late /ˌhaɪpɚˈvɛntəˌleɪt/ *verb* **-lates**; **-lat•ed**; **-lat•ing** [*no obj*] : to breathe very quickly and deeply ▪ The boy panicked and began *hyperventilating*. ✧ When you *hyperventilate* you breathe so quickly that you begin to feel dizzy. *Hyperventilate* is also sometimes used figuratively to describe a person who is becoming very upset or excited but not actually breathing quickly. ▪ The latest economic news has prompted a lot of *hyperventilating* on Wall Street. [=people on Wall Street are very upset about the news]
– **hy•per•ven•ti•la•tion** /ˌhaɪpɚˌvɛntəˈleɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

hy•phen /ˈhaɪfən/ *noun, pl* **-phens** [*count*] : a punctuation mark - that is used to connect words or parts of words

hy•phen•ate /ˈhaɪfəˌneɪt/ *verb* **-ates**; **-at•ed**; **-at•ing** [+ *obj*] : to connect (words or parts of words) with a hyphen ▪ In English, we *hyphenate* some compounds but not others.
– **hyphenated** *adj* ▪ "Runner-up" is a *hyphenated* term.

hyp•no•sis /hɪpˈnoʊsəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a state that resembles sleep but in which you can hear and respond to questions or suggestions ▪ He underwent *hypnosis* to treat his fear of water. ▪ While ***under hypnosis***, she described the horrific accident in detail.

hyp•no•ther•a•py /ˌhɪpnoʊˈθerəpi/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : the use of hypnosis to help people with emotional and psychological problems

[1]hyp•not•ic /hɪpˈnɑːtɪk/ *adj*
1 *always used before a noun* : of or relating to hypnosis ▪ The psychologist put her into a *hypnotic* state.
2 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having an effect like hypnosis: such as **a** : tending to cause sleep or relaxation ▪ Riding in a car often has a *hypnotic* effect on babies. ▪ the steady, *hypnotic* rhythm of the train **b** : attractive or interesting in a powerful or mysterious way ▪ Her voice is powerful and *hypnotic*. [=*spellbinding, fascinating*] ▪ a *hypnotic* personality
– **hyp•not•i•cal•ly** /hɪpˈnɑːtɪkli/ *adv* ▪ chanting *hypnotically*

[2]hypnotic *noun, pl* **-ics** [*count*] *medical* : a drug that causes sleep

hyp·no·tism /ˈhɪpnəˌtɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the act or practice of putting people into a state of hypnosis ▪ a psychologist who employs *hypnotism* to treat his patients

hyp·no·tist /ˈhɪpnəˌtɪst/ *noun, pl* **-tists** [*count*] : a person who puts people into a state of hypnosis : a person who hypnotizes people

hyp·no·tize *also Brit* **hyp·no·tise** /ˈhɪpnəˌtaɪz/ *verb* **-tiz·es; -tized; -tiz·ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to put (a person) into a state of hypnosis ▪ The therapist *hypnotized* him and asked him questions about his traumatic experiences in the war. ▪ a *hypnotized* patient
2 : to hold the attention of (someone) : to attract (someone) in a powerful or mysterious way ▪ He can *hypnotize* people with his stare. — often used as *(be) hypnotized* ▪ I *was hypnotized* [=*fascinated*] by her beauty.
– **hypnotizing** *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ *hypnotizing* beauty

hypo- *prefix*
1 : under : beneath : down ▪ *hypo*dermic
2 : less than normal or normally ▪ *hypo*tension ▪ *hypo*thermia

hy·po·chon·dria /ˌhaɪpəˈkɑːndrijə/ *noun* [*noncount*] : unusual or excessive concern about your health : a tendency to fear or imagine that you have illnesses that you do not actually have ▪ She fueled her *hypochondria* by reading articles about rare diseases.

hy·po·chon·dri·ac /ˌhaɪpəˈkɑːndriˌæk/ *noun, pl* **-acs** [*count*] : a person who is often or always worried about being ill ▪ My brother is a real *hypochondriac*. Every time he reads about some new disease, he thinks he has it.

hy·poc·ri·sy /hɪˈpɑːkrəsi/ *noun, pl* **-sies** *disapproving* : the behavior of people who do things that they tell other people not to do : behavior that does not agree with what someone claims to believe or feel [*noncount*] When his private letters were made public, they revealed his *hypocrisy*. ▪ the *hypocrisy* of people who say one thing but do another [*count*] Teenagers often have a keen awareness of their parents' *hypocrisies*.

hyp·o·crite /ˈhɪpəˌkrɪt/ *noun, pl* **-crites** [*count*] *disapproving* : a person who claims or pretends to have certain beliefs about what is right but who behaves in a way that disagrees with those beliefs ▪ the *hypocrites* who criticize other people for not voting but who don't always vote themselves
– **hyp·o·crit·i·cal** /ˌhɪpəˈkrɪtɪkəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ It's *hypocritical* of you to demand respect from your students when you don't respect them in return. ▪ a *hypocritical* remark ▪ *hypocritical* politicians – **hyp·o·crit·i·cal·ly** /ˌhɪpəˈkrɪtɪkli/ *adv*

[1]hy·po·der·mic /ˌhaɪpəˈdɚmɪk/ *adj, medical*
1 : going under the skin ▪ a *hypodermic* injection
2 : used for putting fluids into or taking fluids out of the body by going under the skin ▪ a ***hypodermic needle*** [=a thin, hollow needle used for giving people injections] ▪ a ***hypodermic syringe***

[2]hypodermic *noun, pl* **-mics** [*count*] *medical* : a device that uses a thin, hollow needle for putting fluids into or taking fluids out of the body : SYRINGE

hy·po·ten·sion /ˌhaɪpoʊˈtɛnʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : low blood pressure
– **hy·po·ten·sive** /ˌhaɪpoʊˈtɛnsɪv/ *adj* ▪ *hypotensive* patients

hy·pot·e·nuse /ˌhaɪˈpɑːtəˌnuːs, *Brit* ˌhaɪˈpɒtəˌnjuːz/ *noun, pl* **-nus·es** [*count*] *mathematics* : the long side opposite the right angle of a triangle

hy·po·ther·mia /ˌhaɪpoʊˈθɚmijə/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : a condition in which the temperature of your body is very low ▪ She fell into the cold water and nearly died from *hypothermia*.



hypodermic

hy·poth·e·sis /ˌhaɪˈpɑːθəsəs/ *noun, pl* **-e·ses** /-əˌsiːz/ [*count*] : an idea or theory that is not proven but that leads to further study or discussion ▪ Other chemists rejected his *hypothesis*. ▪ put forward a *hypothesis* = advance a *hypothesis* ▪ Their *hypothesis* is that watching excessive amounts of television reduces a person's ability to concentrate. ▪ The results of the experiment did not support/confirm his *hypothesis*.

hy·poth·e·size *also Brit* **hy·poth·e·sise** /ˌhaɪˈpɑːθəˌsaɪz/ *verb* **-siz·es; -sized; -siz·ing** [+ *obj*] : to suggest (an idea or theory) : to make or suggest (a hypothesis) ▪ Psychologists *hypothesized* that his odd behavior was caused by a chemical imbalance in the brain. ▪ Biologists have *hypothesized* a relationship between the two species. [=biologists have suggested that there may be a relationship between the two species]

hy·po·thet·i·cal /ˌhaɪpəˈθɛtɪkəl/ *adj*
1 : involving or based on a suggested idea or theory : involving or based on a hypothesis ▪ a *hypothetical* argument/discussion ▪ The theory is *hypothetical*.
2 : not real : imagined as an example ▪ She described a *hypothetical* case to clarify her point. ▪ a *hypothetical* question/situation/example
– **hy·po·thet·i·cal·ly** /ˌhaɪpəˈθɛtɪkli/ *adv* ▪ Suppose, *hypothetically*, that you were offered a large sum of money in exchange for revealing company secrets. Would you accept the offer? ▪ We're just speaking *hypothetically*.

hys·ter·ec·to·my /hɪstəˈrɛktəmi/ *noun, pl* **-mies** [*count, noncount*] *medical* : an operation to remove a woman's uterus ▪ a surgeon who has performed many *hysterectomies*

hys·te·ria /hɪˈsterijə, hɪˈstirijə/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : a state in which your emotions (such as fear) are so strong that you behave in an uncontrolled way ▪ A few of the children began to scream, and soon they were all caught up in the *hysteria*. ▪ fits/attacks of *hysteria*
2 : a situation in which many people behave or react in an extreme or uncontrolled way because of fear, anger, etc. ▪ Wartime *hysteria* led to many unfair accusations of treachery. ▪ The spreading of the disease caused/produced ***mass hysteria*** in the village.

hys·ter·ic /hɪˈsterɪk/ *noun, pl* **-ics** [*count*] *usually disapproving* : a person who behaves or reacts in an extremely or foolishly emotional way : a hysterical person ▪ He dismisses his critics as a bunch of *hysterics* who are always predicting disaster. — see also HYSTERICS

hys·ter·i·cal /hɪˈsterɪkəl/ *also* **hysteric** *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]
1 : feeling or showing extreme and uncontrolled emotion : marked by hysteria ▪ crowds of screaming, *hysterical* fans ▪ By the time the police arrived, the victim had become *hysterical*. ▪ She burst into shrieks of *hysterical* laughter.
2 *informal* : very funny ▪ I think his movies are *hysterical*.
– **hys·ter·i·cal·ly** /hɪˈsterɪkli/ *adv* ▪ The child was crying/laughing *hysterically*. ▪ His movies are *hysterically* funny.

hys·ter·ics /hɪˈsterɪks/ *noun* [*plural*] : uncontrolled laughter, crying, or extreme emotion : a fit of hysteria ▪ My mother ***went into hysterics*** [=she became very upset] when she saw my tattoo. = My mother ***had hysterics*** when she saw my tattoo. ▪ The audience was ***in hysterics*** [=was laughing very hard] throughout the movie.

Hz *abbr* hertz

I

i *or* **I** /ˈaɪ/ *noun, pl* **i's** *or* **is** *or* **I's** *or* **Is** /ˈaɪz/
1 : the ninth letter of the English alphabet [*count*] The word "ice" begins with an *i*. [*noncount*] The word "ice" begins with *i*.
2 [*count*] : the number one in Roman numerals

[1]I /ˈaɪ/ *pronoun* : the person who is speaking or writing — used as the subject of a verb ▪ *I* feel fine ▪ *I* think (that) we should leave now. ▪ *I* like to drive. ▪ *I* can do that myself. ▪ You and *I* will be going to the movies together. ▪ My brother and *I* are five years apart in age. ▪ *I* am here. ▪ Here *I* am. — compare ME, MINE, MY, WE ***usage*** see [1]ME

[2]I *abbr* island, isle

IA *abbr* Iowa

iamb /ˈaɪˌæm/ *noun, pl* **iambs** [*count*] *technical* : a unit of

rhythm in poetry that consists of one syllable that is not accented or stressed followed by one syllable that is accented or stressed (as in the words *away* or *above*)
– **iam•bic** /aɪ'æmbɪk/ *adj* ▪ *iambic* stanzas/poetry ▪ *iambic* pentameter

-ian see -AN

Ibe•ri•an /aɪ'birijən/ *adj* : of or relating to Spain and Portugal ▪ the *Iberian* Peninsula ▪ *Iberian* peoples

ibex /'aɪˌbɛks/ *noun, pl* **ibex** *or* **ibex•es** [*count*] : a wild goat that lives chiefly in the mountains of Europe, Asia, and northeastern Africa

ibid *abbr* — used in formal writing to indicate that a reference is from the same source as a previous reference ✧ *Ibid* is an abbreviation of the Latin word "ibidem," which means "in the same place."

-ibility see -ABILITY

ibis /'aɪbəs/ *noun, pl* **ibis** *or* **ibis•es** [*count*] : a tall bird that has long legs and a long bill that curves downward

-ible see -ABLE

ibu•pro•fen /ˌaɪbjʊ'proʊfən/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : a medicine that reduces pain and fever

[1]-ic /ɪk/ *adj suffix*
1 : having the character or form of ▪ panoram*ic* ▪ cherub*ic*
2 a : of or relating to ▪ chivalr*ic* **b** : coming from or containing ▪ acid*ic*
3 : in the manner of : like that of ▪ autocrat*ic*
4 : making use of ▪ electron*ic* ▪ atom*ic*

[2]-ic *noun suffix*
1 : someone belonging to or connected with ▪ academ*ic*
2 : someone affected by ▪ alcohol*ic*

-i•cal /ɪkəl/ *adj suffix* : [1]-IC ▪ symmetr*ical* ▪ geolog*ical*

ICBM /ˌaɪˌsi:ˌbi:'ɛm/ *noun, pl* **ICBM's** *or* **ICBMs** [*count*] : a type of missile that can fly from one continent to another ✧ *ICBM* is an abbreviation of "intercontinental ballistic missile."

[1]ice /'aɪs/ *noun, pl* **ic•es**
1 [*noncount*] **a** : frozen water ▪ The steps were coated with *ice*. ▪ a piece of *ice* ▪ *Ice* formed on the car's windows. ▪ The *ice* melted quickly in the hot sun. ▪ *ice* crystals/particles/sculptures ▪ *ice* cubes — see also DRY ICE **b** : a sheet of frozen water ▪ She skated out onto the *ice*. ▪ He almost fell through a hole in the *ice*. — see also BLACK ICE, CENTER ICE **c** : cubes or pieces of ice ▪ Fill the glass with *ice*.
2 a [*count, noncount*] *US* : a frozen dessert of crushed ice sweetened with fruit juice ▪ (a) raspberry *ice* **b** [*count*] *Brit, old-fashioned* : a serving of ice cream
3 [*noncount*] *US slang, old-fashioned* : diamonds or jewelry ▪ He gave her some *ice* for her birthday. ▪ She was dripping with *ice*. [=she was wearing a lot of diamond jewelry]
break the ice *informal* : to say or do something that helps people to relax and begin talking at a meeting, party, etc. ▪ He told a joke to *break the ice*. — see also ICEBREAKER 2
cut ice *informal* : to have importance to someone — usually + *with*; used in negative statements ▪ His opinion doesn't *cut* any *ice with* me. = His opinion *cuts* no *ice with* me. [=his opinion is not important to me]
on ice **1** : on top of pieces of ice in order to be kept cool ▪ I'll put the champagne *on ice*. **2** *informal* : in the state of being delayed for a time ▪ We'll have to put/keep the project *on ice* until more funds become available. [=we'll have to stop working on the project until more funds become available] **3** *US, informal* : in a condition that makes victory certain ▪ With that last goal they ***put the game on ice***. [=they iced the game; they made it certain that they would win the game]
on thin ice : in a dangerous situation : in a situation that may cause you to get into trouble ▪ In going against his father's wishes, he was (skating/walking) *on thin ice*.

[2]ice *verb* **ices**; **iced**; **ic•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to make (something) cold with ice ▪ *Ice* the glasses before you fill them. ▪ *ice* [=put ice on] a twisted ankle
2 : to cover (something, such as a cake) with icing ▪ *Ice* [=(*US*) *frost*] the cake after it has cooled.
3 *US, informal* : to make winning or getting (something) certain ▪ The last goal *iced* [=*clinched*] the game/win. ▪ His persuasive talk *iced* [=*secured*] the contract.
4 *ice hockey* : to shoot (the puck) down the rink and beyond the opponent's goal
5 *US slang, old-fashioned* : to kill or murder (someone) ▪ He had all his enemies *iced*.
ice over/up [*phrasal verb*] : to become covered with ice ▪ The freezing rain caused the roads to *ice over*. ▪ As the weather grew colder, the pond *iced over*. ▪ The wings of the plane *iced up* during the storm.

ice age *or* **Ice Age** *noun, pl* ~ **ages** [*count*] : a time in the distant past when a large part of the world was covered with ice ▪ changes that occurred during the last *ice age* ▪ a valley formed during ***the Ice Age*** [=the most recent ice age]

ice ax *noun, pl* ~ **axes** [*count*] : a cutting tool that is used in mountain climbing

ice•berg /'aɪsˌbəg/ *noun, pl* **-bergs** [*count*] : a very large piece of ice floating in the ocean
the tip of the iceberg : a small part of something (such as a problem) that is seen or known about when there is a much larger part that is not seen or known about ▪ The news is shocking, but we may find out that the stories we've heard so far are just *the tip of the iceberg*.

iceberg lettuce *noun* [*noncount*] : a type of light green lettuce that is often eaten in salads — see color picture on page C4

ice•bound /'aɪsˌbaʊnd/ *adj* : surrounded or blocked by ice ▪ The harbor was *icebound*. ▪ The ship became *icebound*.

ice•box /'aɪsˌbɑ:ks/ *noun, pl* **-box•es** [*count*] *US, old-fashioned* : REFRIGERATOR

ice•break•er /'aɪsˌbreɪkə/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]
1 : a ship designed to clear a passage through ice
2 : something done or said to help people to relax and begin talking at a meeting, party, etc. ▪ using an old joke as a conversational *icebreaker* — see also *break the ice* at [1]ICE

ice cap *noun, pl* ~ **caps** [*count*] : a very large and thick sheet of ice that covers the North Pole, the South Pole, or another region ▪ the polar *ice cap*

ice–cold /'aɪs'koʊld/ *adj* : very cold ▪ My hands were *ice-cold*. ▪ *ice-cold* beer

ice cream /ˌaɪs'kri:m/ *noun, pl* ~ **creams** : a frozen food containing sweetened and flavored cream [*noncount*] What flavor of *ice cream* do you like? ▪ chocolate/vanilla *ice cream* [*count*] Would you like another *ice cream*? [=another serving of ice cream] — often used before another noun ▪ an *ice-cream* parlor/stand/soda

ice–cream cone *noun, pl* ~ **cones** [*count*] : a thin, crisp cake that is shaped like a cone and used for holding ice cream; *also* : one filled with ice cream ▪ We each had an *ice-cream cone* for dessert.

iced *adj* : containing small pieces of ice or ice cubes ▪ *iced* coffee/tea

ice field *noun, pl* ~ **fields** [*count*] : a large area of land covered with ice

ice fishing *noun* [*noncount*] : fishing that is done in winter through a hole that is cut in the ice on a lake, pond, etc.

ice floe *noun, pl* ~ **floes** [*count*] : a large, flat area of ice floating in the ocean

ice hockey *noun* [*noncount*] : a game played on an ice rink in which two teams of six players on skates use curved sticks to try to shoot a puck into the opponent's goal — called also (*US*) *hockey*; compare FIELD HOCKEY

ice lolly *noun, pl* ~ **lollies** [*count*] *Brit* : a piece of flavored ice that is eaten off a stick — compare POPSICLE

ice pack *noun, pl* ~ **packs** [*count*]
1 : a container or bag filled with ice that is used to cool part of your body ▪ He had an *ice pack* on his sore elbow.
2 : a large area of ice on the ocean formed from pieces and sheets of ice that have been pushed together by wind and waves

ice pick *noun, pl* ~ **picks** [*count*] : a sharp tool used for breaking off small pieces of ice

ice rink *noun, pl* ~ **rinks** [*count*] : an often enclosed area that has a sheet of ice for ice-skating

ice sheet *noun, pl* ~ **sheets** [*count*] : a very large and thick area of ice that covers a region

ice show *noun, pl* ~ **shows** [*count*] : a show in which ice-skaters perform to music

ice skate *noun, pl* ~ **skates** [*count*] : a shoe with a special blade on the bottom that is used for skating on ice ▪ a pair of *ice skates*

ice–skate /'aɪsˌskeɪt/ *verb* **-skates**; **-skat•ed**; **-skat•ing** [*no obj*] : to skate on ice ▪ I had never *ice-skated* before.
– **ice–skat•er** /'aɪsˌskeɪtə/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ There were several *ice-skaters* at the rink. – **ice–skating** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ They use the frozen pond for *ice-skating*. ▪ Let's ***go ice-skating***.

ice storm *noun, pl* ~ **storms** [*count*] : a storm in which falling rain freezes as it lands

ice water *noun* [*noncount*] *US* : water that has ice in it : very cold water ▪ a glass of *ice water* [=(*Brit*) iced water]
ice water in your veins *US, informal* ✧ If you have *ice water in your veins*, you remain very calm and controlled in a situation in which other people would become upset or afraid.
ici•cle /ˈaɪˌsɪkəl/ *noun, pl* **ici•cles** [*count*] : a hanging piece of ice formed when water freezes as it drips down from something (such as a roof)
ic•ing /ˈaɪsɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : FROSTING ▪ a cake with chocolate *icing*
icing on the cake : something extra that makes a good thing even better ▪ The concert itself was great, and getting to meet the band afterward was (the) *icing on the cake*.
icing sugar *noun* [*noncount*] *Brit* : POWDERED SUGAR
icky /ˈɪki/ *adj* **ick•i•er**; **-est** [*also more ~; most ~*] *informal* : having a very unpleasant quality ▪ The trail was *icky* with mud. ▪ an *icky* taste
icon /ˈaɪˌkɑːn/ *noun, pl* **icons** [*count*]
1 *computers* : a small picture on a computer screen that represents a program or function ▪ Click on the *icon* to open your e-mail program. — see picture at COMPUTER
2 a : a person who is very successful and admired ▪ He has become an *icon* in the movie business. ▪ a singer who has become a pop *icon* **b** : a widely known symbol ▪ The Statue of Liberty has become an American cultural *icon*.
3 *also* ***ikon*** : a religious image in the Orthodox Christian church
– **icon•ic** /aɪˈkɑːnɪk/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ He has achieved *iconic* status in the movie business.
icon•o•clast /aɪˈkɑːnəˌklæst/ *noun, pl* **-clasts** [*count*] *formal* : a person who criticizes or opposes beliefs and practices that are widely accepted
– **icon•o•clasm** /aɪˈkɑːnəˌklæzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ The *iconoclasm* of his views made him unpopular. – **icon•o•clast•ic** /aɪˌkɑːnəˈklæstɪk/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ *iconoclastic* theories – **icon•o•clast•ic•al•ly** /aɪˌkɑːnəˈklæstɪkli/ *adv*
ico•nog•ra•phy /ˌaɪkəˈnɑːgrəfi/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the images or symbols related to something ▪ Christian *iconography* ▪ the *iconography* of the 1960s
-ics /ɪks/ *noun suffix*
1 : study : knowledge ▪ electron*ics* ▪ linguist*ics*
2 : characteristic actions or activities ▪ hero*ics* ▪ athlet*ics* ▪ acrobat*ics* ▪ gymnast*ics*
ICU *abbr* intensive care unit ▪ She spent several days in (the) *ICU* after the surgery.
icy /ˈaɪsi/ *adj* **ic•i•er**; **-est** [*also more ~; most ~*]
1 : covered with ice ▪ *icy* roads/sidewalks
2 : very cold ▪ *icy* weather ▪ an ***icy cold*** [=*ice-cold*] wind
3 : not friendly or kind ▪ an *icy* [=*cold, frigid*] stare
– **ic•i•ly** /ˈaɪsəli/ *adv* ▪ His manner was *icily* formal. – **ic•i•ness** /ˈaɪsinəs/ *noun* [*noncount*]
id /ˈɪd/ *noun, pl* **ids** [*count*] *psychology* : a part of a person's unconscious mind that relates to basic needs and desires — compare EGO, SUPEREGO
[1]ID /ˈaɪˈdiː/ *noun, pl* **ID's** *or* **IDs** : a document, card, etc., that has your name and other information about you and that often includes your photograph [*noncount*] The guard insisted that we show him some *ID*. [=*identification*] [*count*] The guard insisted that we show him our *ID's*.
[2]ID *verb* **ID's** *or* **IDs**; **ID'd** *or* **IDed**; **ID'ing** *or* **IDing** [+ *obj*] *informal* : to find out the identity of (someone or something) : IDENTIFY ▪ The police have not yet *ID'd* the victim.
[3]ID *abbr* Idaho
I'd /ˈaɪd/ — used as a contraction of *I had* or *I would* ▪ *I'd* [=I had] already read the book. ▪ *I'd* [=I had] better leave. ▪ *I'd* [=I would] rather do it myself.
ID card *noun, pl* ~ **cards** [*count*] : a card that has your name and other information about you and that often includes your photograph — called also *identification card, identity card*
-ide /aɪd/ *noun suffix, chemistry* : a chemical made up of two or more elements ▪ sulph*ide* ▪ cyan*ide*
idea /aɪˈdiːjə/ *noun, pl* **ideas**
1 [*count*] : a thought, plan, or suggestion about what to do ▪ My *idea* is to study law. ▪ Starting her own business seemed like a good *idea* at the time, but it turned out badly. ▪ I left with the *idea* that I'd come back later. = I left with the *idea* of coming back later. ▪ Whose *idea* was it to leave so early? ▪ My *idea* was that if we left early we could beat the crowd. ▪ Buying the car was a bad *idea*. ▪ I have some *ideas* for redecorating the room. ▪ He has an *idea* for a movie. ▪ I'm not sure what to do next. Do you have any *ideas*? ▪ She's always full of new *ideas*. ▪ It's a good *idea* to talk to people who have actually been there. ▪ ***There's/that's an idea***! = There's/that's a good *idea*! ▪ What's the next ***big idea*** in the fashion industry? ▪ Tom ***has the right idea***—while the rest of us are fighting traffic every day, he takes the train to work.
2 [*count*] : an opinion or belief ▪ That guy has some pretty strange *ideas*. ▪ "I thought he'd help us." "What gave you that *idea*?" ▪ Where did you get that *idea*? ▪ I thought we could handle this ourselves, but my boss ***had other ideas***. [=my boss did not agree]
3 : something that you imagine or picture in your mind [*count*] I formed a good *idea* of what the place is like by reading about it. ▪ A hamburger and a milkshake isn't exactly my *idea* of a gourmet meal! [=it is not what I imagine a gourmet meal to be] ▪ A quiet night at home is my *idea* of a good time. [*noncount*] Could you give us some *idea* of what to expect?
4 [*singular*] : an understanding of something : knowledge about something ▪ He has a clear *idea* of his responsibilities. [=he knows what his responsibilities are] ▪ Do you have any *idea* of what these repairs will cost? ▪ I ***have no idea*** what you're talking about. = I don't ***have the faintest/slightest idea*** what you're talking about. [=I do not know/understand at all what you're talking about] ▪ "Was it hard?" "***You have no idea*** (how hard it was)!" [=yes, it was very hard] ▪ All right, I ***get the idea***. [=I understand] ▪ I think he made a mistake, but don't ***get the wrong idea*** [=don't misunderstand me], I still think he has done a good job overall. ▪ I don't want to ***give you the wrong idea***.
5 *the idea* : the central meaning or purpose of something ▪ *The* whole *idea* [=*point, object*] of the game is to keep from getting caught. ▪ *The idea* [=*goal, aim*] is to get people to attend. ▪ I just don't get/understand ***the idea behind*** [=the reason for] this change in the rules. ▪ (*informal*) Hey! ***What's the big idea***!? [=why are you doing that?]
give someone ideas *or* ***put ideas in/into someone's head*** : to cause someone to think about doing something that probably should not be done ▪ Don't go *giving him ideas*. ▪ Don't *put ideas in/into his head* by telling him he'd be happier if he'd quit his job.
[1]ide•al /aɪˈdiːl/ *adj* : exactly right for a particular purpose, situation, or person : PERFECT ▪ *ideal* weather ▪ the *ideal* man/woman ▪ It was an *ideal* spot for a vacation. ▪ She is an *ideal* candidate for the job. ▪ The conference provided us with an *ideal* opportunity to meet new people. ▪ In an *ideal* world [=a perfect world without problems] there would be no war. ▪ The conditions were ***far from ideal***. [=were not good at all]
[2]ideal *noun, pl* **-als** [*count*]
1 : an idea or standard of perfection or excellence ▪ an *ideal* of romantic love ▪ The organization has remained true to its *ideals*. [=has continued to work for and support the goals that it considers most worthwhile and important] ▪ He hasn't lived up to his high *ideals*.
2 : someone or something that is believed to be perfect : someone or something that you admire and want to imitate ▪ She considers the actress her *ideal*.
ide•al•ism /aɪˈdiːjəˌlɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the attitude of a person who believes that it is possible to live according to very high standards of behavior and honesty ▪ youthful *idealism* ▪ political/religious/romantic *idealism*
– **ide•al•ist** /aɪˈdiːjəlɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] ▪ The group was a mix of realists and *idealists*. – **ide•al•is•tic** /aɪˌdiːjəˈlɪstɪk/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ hopeful and *idealistic* students ▪ She was naïve and *idealistic*. – **ide•al•is•ti•cal•ly** /aɪˌdiːjəˈlɪstɪkli/ *adv*
ide•al•ize *also Brit* **ide•al•ise** /aɪˈdiːjəˌlaɪz/ *verb* **-iz•es**; **-ized**; **-iz•ing** [+ *obj*] : to think of or represent (someone or something) as being perfect ▪ She tends to *idealize* her job.
– **ide•al•i•za•tion** *also Brit* **ide•al•i•sa•tion** /aɪˌdiːjələˈzeɪʃən, *Brit* aɪˌdɪəˌlaɪˈzeɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count, noncount*] ▪ The film presents the subject without (any) *idealization*. – **idealized** *also Brit* **idealised** *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ The movie presents a very *idealized* version of American life.
ide•al•ly /aɪˈdiːli/ *adv*
1 : in an ideal way : PERFECTLY ▪ His skills made him *ideally* suited for the job. ▪ They were *ideally* suited to one another. ▪ The ski slope was situated *ideally*.
2 — used to say what should happen or be done to produce the best results ▪ *Ideally*, each student should be taught indi-

vidually. ▪ *Ideally*, you should do these exercises daily.

iden·ti·cal /aɪˈdɛntɪkəl/ *adj*

1 : exactly the same ▪ We visited the *identical* place we stopped at last year

2 : exactly alike or equal ▪ They were wearing *identical* coats. ▪ The boxes were *identical* in shape. ▪ They drove virtually *identical* cars. ▪ The results were *identical* to/with those of the first test.

– **iden·ti·cal·ly** /aɪˈdɛntɪkli/ *adv* ▪ They were dressed *identically*. ▪ The two words are pronounced *identically*.

identical twin *noun, pl* ~ **twins** [*count*] : either member of a pair of twins that are produced from a single egg and who look exactly alike — compare FRATERNAL TWIN

iden·ti·fi·ca·tion /aɪˌdɛntəfəˈkeɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**

1 : the act of finding out who someone is or what something is : the act of identifying someone or something [*noncount*] A member of the family was brought in for *identification* of the body. ▪ The birds are tagged for easy *identification*. [*count*] The police have made a positive *identification* of the suspect.

2 [*noncount*] : something that shows who a person is : a document, card, etc., that has your name and other information about you and that often includes your photograph ▪ We were told to carry (some) personal *identification* at all times. ▪ He needed to show (his) *identification* before they would cash the check. ▪ You need two ***forms of identification***.

3 [*noncount*] : a feeling that you share and understand the problems or experiences of another person : the act of identifying *with* someone ▪ the movie audience's *identification with* the good guys ▪ They had/felt a (strong) sense of *identification with* their neighbors.

identification card *noun, pl* ~ **cards** [*count*] : ID CARD

identification parade *noun, pl* ~ **-ades** [*count*] *Brit* : LINEUP 3

iden·ti·fy /aɪˈdɛntəˌfaɪ/ *verb* **-fies**; **-fied**; **-fy·ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to know and say who someone is or what something is ▪ She *identified* the dog as her lost pet. ▪ He was able to correctly *identify* the mushroom. ▪ The witness positively *identified* the suspect in the crime. ▪ She was easily *identified* by what she was wearing. [=it was easy to see who she was because of what she was wearing] ▪ He has a talent for *identifying* [=*recognizing*] good workers.

2 : to find out who someone is or what something is ▪ The corpse was *identified* on the basis of dental records. ▪ They could not *identify* the source of the quotation. ▪ They had no difficulty in *identifying* the problem. ▪ We began by *identifying* what we needed for the job. ▪ We need to *identify* the causes of unemployment.

3 : to show who someone is or what something is ▪ His clothes *identified* him as a clerk. [=his clothes showed that he was a clerk] ▪ an ***identifying mark/feature*** [=a mark/feature that shows who someone is or what something is]

identify with [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***identify (something) with (something)*** : to think of (something) as being the same as (something else) ▪ It is a mistake to *identify* [=*equate*] being healthy *with* being thin. **2** ***identify (someone) with (something)*** : to think of (someone) as being very closely associated with (something) — often used as *(be) identified with* ▪ She has always *been identified with* the civil rights movement. ▪ These groups *are identified with* conservation. **3** ***identify with (someone or something)*** : to think of yourself as having the same problems and feelings as someone ▪ Many readers *identify with* the characters in her novels. ▪ He could *identify with* the problems the athlete was having. [=he understood the problems because he had had similar problems himself]

identify yourself : to say who you are ▪ When the police asked his name, he refused to *identify himself*.

– **iden·ti·fi·able** /aɪˌdɛntəˈfajəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ a clearly/readily *identifiable* signature – **iden·ti·fi·ably** /aɪˌdɛntəˈfajəbli/ *adv* ▪ The band has an *identifiably* British sound.

iden·ti·ty /aɪˈdɛntəti/ *noun, pl* **-ties**

1 : who someone is : the name of a person [*count*] The *identity* of the criminal/victim is not known. ▪ The face of the witness was hidden in order to protect her *identity*. [=to keep her name from being known] ▪ The documents proved/established his *identity*. [=proved/established who he was] ▪ They produced their passports as proof of their *identities*. [*noncount*] You will need to show proof of *identity*. [=something that shows that you are who you say you are] ▪ They arrested the wrong man. It was a case of ***mistaken identity***.

2 : the qualities, beliefs, etc., that make a particular person or group different from others [*count*] As children grow, they establish their own *identities*. ▪ She did not want to be known only as the wife of her husband. She insisted on having her own *identity*. [=on being known for her own qualities, achievements, etc.] [*noncount*] people who seem to lack individual *identity* ▪ He has a strong sense of personal *identity*. [=a strong feeling about exactly the kind of person he is] ▪ His art reflects his cultural/racial *identity*.

identity card *noun, pl* ~ **cards** [*count*] : ID CARD

identity crisis *noun, pl* ~ **crises** [*count*] : a feeling of unhappiness and confusion caused by not being sure about what type of person you really are or what the true purpose of your life is ▪ He is suffering from an *identity crisis*.

identity parade *noun, pl* ~ **-rades** [*count*] *Brit* : LINEUP 3

identity theft *noun* [*noncount*] : the illegal use of someone else's personal identifying information (such as a Social Security number) in order to get money or credit ▪ How can we protect ourselves against *identity theft*?

ide·ol·o·gist /ˌaɪdiˈɑːlədʒɪst/ *noun, pl* **-gists** [*count*] : IDEOLOGUE

ideo·logue /ˈaɪdijəˌlɑːg/ *noun, pl* **-logues** [*count*] *formal* + *often disapproving* : someone who very strongly supports and is guided by the ideology of a particular group ▪ conservative/liberal *ideologues*

ide·ol·o·gy /ˌaɪdiˈɑːlədʒi/ *noun, pl* **-gies** : the set of ideas and beliefs of a group or political party [*count*] progressive/liberal/conservative *ideologies* ▪ the *ideology* of a totalitarian/capitalist society [*noncount*] He says that the election is not about *ideology*.

– **ideo·log·i·cal** /ˌaɪdijəˈlɑːdʒɪkəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ The two groups divided along *ideological* lines. ▪ *ideological* conflicts – **ideo·log·i·cal·ly** /ˌaɪdijəˈlɑːdʒɪkli/ *adv*

ides /ˈaɪdz/ *noun* [*plural*] : the 15th day of March, May, July, or October or the 13th day of any other month in the ancient Roman calendar ▪ "Beware the *ides* of March." —Shakespeare, *Julius Caesar* (1599)

id·i·o·cy /ˈɪdijəsi/ *noun, pl* **-cies**

1 [*noncount*] : extreme stupidity ▪ an act of sheer *idiocy*

2 [*count*] : something that is extremely stupid or foolish : an idiotic action or statement ▪ He was complaining again about the *idiocies* of the people he works for.

id·i·om /ˈɪdijəm/ *noun, pl* **-oms**

1 [*count*] : an expression that cannot be understood from the meanings of its separate words but that has a separate meaning of its own ▪ The expression "give way," meaning "retreat," is an *idiom*.

2 [*count, noncount*] : a form of a language that is spoken in a particular area and that uses some of its own words, grammar, and pronunciations : DIALECT

3 : a style or form of expression that is characteristic of a particular person, type of art, etc. [*count*] a poet's *idiom* ▪ rock and roll and other musical *idioms* [*noncount*] a feature of modern jazz *idiom*

– **id·i·om·at·ic** /ˌɪdijəˈmætɪk/ *adj* ▪ an *idiomatic* expression/phrase [=an expression/phrase that is an idiom] ▪ a use of language that is not *idiomatic* [=that does not sound natural or correct] – **id·i·om·at·i·cal·ly** /ˌɪdijəˈmætɪkli/ *adv* ▪ That phrase is *idiomatically* acceptable/correct.

id·io·syn·cra·sy /ˌɪdijəˈsɪŋkrəsi/ *noun, pl* **-sies** [*count*]

1 : an unusual way in which a particular person behaves or thinks ▪ Her habit of using "like" in every sentence was just one of her *idiosyncrasies*.

2 : an unusual part or feature of something ▪ The current system has a few *idiosyncracies*.

– **id·io·syn·crat·ic** /ˌɪdijoʊˌsɪnˈkrætɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ She has an *idiosyncratic* [=*unusual*] singing voice. ▪ His taste in music was very *idiosyncratic*. ▪ an *idiosyncratic* writing style – **id·io·syn·crat·i·cal·ly** /ˌɪdijoʊˌsɪnˈkrætɪkli/ *adv*

id·i·ot /ˈɪdijət/ *noun, pl* **-ots** [*count*] : a very stupid or foolish person ▪ Don't be such an *idiot*! ▪ I really made an *idiot* of myself [=I acted very stupidly] at the party last night. ▪ Some *idiot* [=*fool*] of a driver kept trying to pass me!

– **id·i·ot·ic** /ˌɪdiˈɑːtɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ an *idiotic* movie ▪ *idiotic* drivers ▪ My behavior last night was *idiotic*. – **id·i·ot·i·cal·ly** /ˌɪdiˈɑːtɪkli/ *adv*

id·i·ot–proof /ˈɪdijətˌpruːf/ *adj, informal* : extremely easy to use or do ▪ *idiot-proof* software

idiot savant *noun, pl* **idiots savants** *or* **idiot savants** [*count*] : SAVANT 2

[1]idle /ˈaɪdl/ *adj*
1 : not working, active, or being used ▪ *idle* workers [=workers who do not have jobs] ▪ The company's competitor's have not been *idle* [=they have been active/busy] in recent months. ▪ The factory has been lying/sitting/standing *idle* [=has not been used] for the past year. ▪ the ***idle rich*** [=rich people who do not have to work]
2 : not having any real purpose or value ▪ *idle* rumors/gossip ▪ There has been a lot of *idle* speculation about what might happen, but no one really knows. ▪ (*formal*) It is *idle* [=*useless, pointless*] to want what you cannot have. ▪ She said she would leave him, but he knew it was an ***idle threat***. [=he knew that she did not mean it]
3 : not having much activity ▪ the *idle* days of summer
4 *somewhat old-fashioned* : trying to avoid work : LAZY ▪ a careless and *idle* worker ▪ There was a group of *idle* boys standing on the corner.
– **idle•ness** /ˈaɪdlnəs/ *noun* [*noncount*]

[2]idle *verb* **idles; idled; idling**
1 *of an engine or vehicle* : to run without being connected for doing useful work [*no obj*] She left the engine *idling* for a few seconds before she turned it off. ▪ The cars *idled* in traffic. [+ *obj*] *idle* an engine
2 : to spend time doing nothing or nothing useful [*no obj*] A group of boys *idled* in the doorway. [+ *obj*] — + *away* ▪ We *idled away* the evening playing cards.
3 [+ *obj*] *US* : to cause (someone or something) to stop working : to make (someone or something) idle ▪ The factory closed, *idling* several hundred workers. ▪ Thousands of workers have been *idled* by the bad economy. ▪ The factory has been *idled* by the strike.

idler /ˈaɪdlɚ/ *noun, pl* **idlers** [*count*] *somewhat old-fashioned* : someone who is lazy or does not work ▪ a rich *idler*

idly /ˈaɪdli/ *adv* : without much thought, effort, or concern ▪ We sat *idly*, waiting for something to happen. ▪ I *idly* wondered what they were doing.

idol /ˈaɪdl/ *noun, pl* **idols** [*count*]
1 : a greatly loved or admired person ▪ a sports/teen/pop *idol* ▪ an actor who is the *idol* of millions ▪ a ***fallen idol*** [=a person who is no longer greatly admired] — see also MATINEE IDOL
2 : a picture or object that is worshipped as a god

idol•a•try /aɪˈdɑːlətri/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the worship of a picture or object as a god
– **idol•a•trous** /aɪˈdɑːlətrəs/ *adj* ▪ *idolatrous* worship

idol•ize *also Brit* **idol•ise** /ˈaɪdəˌlaɪz/ *verb* **-iz•es; -ized; -iz•ing** [+ *obj*] : to love or admire (someone) very much or too much ▪ The young boy *idolized* his father. [=he loved his father and thought that he never did anything wrong] ▪ an actor who is *idolized* by millions
– **idol•i•za•tion** *also Brit* **idol•i•sa•tion** /ˌaɪdələˈzeɪʃən, *Brit* ˌaɪdəˌlaɪˈzeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ The *idolization* of the novelist continued after his death.

idyll *also* **idyl** /ˈaɪdl/ *noun, pl* **idylls** *also* **idyls** [*count*] *literary*
1 : a simple poem or other piece of writing that describes peaceful country life
2 : a happy and enjoyable scene or experience ▪ a pastoral/romantic *idyll*

idyl•lic /aɪˈdɪlɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : very peaceful, happy, and enjoyable ▪ He had an *idyllic* childhood. ▪ an *idyllic* retreat/setting in the countryside ▪ an *idyllic* summer day
– **idyl•li•cal•ly** /aɪˈdɪlɪkli/ *adv* ▪ He had an *idyllically* happy childhood. ▪ The village is *idyllically* situated.

i.e. *abbr* that is — used to introduce something that explains a preceding statement more fully or exactly ▪ The medicine needs be taken for a short period of time; *i.e.*, three to five days. ✧ The abbreviation *i.e.* comes from the Latin phrase "id est," which means "that is."

-ie *also* **-y** /i/ *noun suffix, informal*
1 : little one ▪ boot*ie* ▪ bird*ie* : dear little one ▪ sonn*y*
2 : someone or something that is ▪ smart*y* ▪ biggi*e* ▪ tough*ie*
3 : someone belonging to ▪ town*ie* : someone having to do with ▪ drug*gie*

-ier see [2]-ER

[1]if /ɪf/ *conj*
1 — used to talk about the result or effect of something that may happen or be true ▪ *If* it rains, (then) we won't go to the park. ▪ *If* he actually did commit the crime, he deserves to be punished. ▪ *If* you believe that, you'll believe anything! ▪ Come to the party *if* you can. ▪ *If* you really want to know, you should ask. ▪ What will happen *if* I fail the test? ▪ You should study. ***If not***, you won't pass the test. = *If* you don't (study), you won't pass the test. ▪ Please arrive early ***if possible***. = Please arrive early *if* it is possible. ▪ I'll do the work myself ***if necessary***. = I'll do the work myself *if* it is necessary. ▪ ***If and when*** he comes, you can ask him. = ***When and if*** he comes, you can ask him.
2 — used to discuss the imaginary result or effect of something that did not happen or that is or was not true ▪ *If* you had studied, you would have passed the test. ▪ The situation would be funny *if* it weren't so tragic. = (*informal*) The situation would be funny *if* it wasn't so tragic. ▪ The harvest would have been good *if* it had rained. ▪ The news would be interesting *if* (it were) true, but it's not true.
3 — used to say that something must happen before another thing can happen ▪ He said he'll come to the party *if* she comes too. = (more strongly) He said he'll come to the party ***only if*** she comes too. = (most strongly) He says he'll come to the party ***if and only if*** she comes too.
4 — used to indicate a result that always occurs when something happens ▪ He gets angry *if* [=*when*] you disagree with him. ▪ The engine stalls *if* you let it get too hot.
5 : even though : ALTHOUGH ▪ It was an interesting *if* unbelievable story. ▪ Her actions were understandable, *if* not forgivable. ▪ He had to perform an annoying, *if* necessary, task. ▪ a fair, *if* tough, boss ▪ The weather was good, *if* not great.
6 — used to introduce a statement or question about something that is not certain ▪ I'll see *if* [=*whether*] I can come. ▪ Do you know *if* he'll come to the party? ▪ I wonder *if* it's true (or not). ▪ Frankly, I doubt *if* he'll pass the exams. ▪ She asked *if* the mail had come. ▪ We should determine/decide *if* it is safe to go swimming.
7 a — used to make a polite request or suggestion ▪ Would you mind *if* I sat here? [=may I sit here?] ▪ *If* you will/would (be good enough to) follow me, ladies and gentlemen, I'll take you to your seats. ▪ *If* I could make a suggestion, why don't we sit closer to the front of the theater? ▪ I'd like to stay a little longer, ***if you don't mind***. = I'd like to stay a little longer, ***if it's/that's all right with you***. **b** — used to state an opinion in a polite way ▪ You're looking particularly lovely today, ***if I may say so***.
8 — used in statements that describe feelings (such as regret) about a possible situation ▪ I'm sorry *if* you think I insulted you. ▪ I'd be sorry *if* you thought I had insulted you. ▪ I don't care *if* we're late.
9 — used in statements and questions that express doubt ▪ I met Brenda last week—*if* that is/was in fact her real name. ▪ *If* you're so smart, why aren't you rich?
10 — used to introduce an even stronger alternative to what has just been said ▪ These changes will have little ***if any*** impact on the problem. ▪ Few *if any* of the town's original settlers are left. ▪ Rarely, ***if ever***, does that happen. ▪ His efforts have helped to save thousands, ***if not*** millions, of lives. ▪ My car is as fast as yours *if not* (even) faster.
11 — used to express surprise about meeting someone when it is not expected ▪ So I went to the game and who should I see there ***if not*** [=*but*] my old friend Tom! ▪ Well, ***if it isn't*** my old friend Tom! ▪ So I went to the game and who did I see there ***if it wasn't*** my old friend Tom!
12 — used to emphasize the truth of a statement ▪ The idea is true *if* any idea has ever been! [=the idea is certainly true] ▪ "He claims that he's never met her." "Well, *if* that isn't the biggest load of nonsense I've ever heard!" [=that is a lot of nonsense; that is completely untrue] ▪ I'll get my revenge ***if it's the last thing I do***! [=I am determined to get my revenge]
as if see [2]AS
even if see [2]EVEN
if anything — used to make a statement that strongly disagrees or contrasts with a preceding statement ▪ We don't see each other too often—*if anything* we don't see each other often enough! ▪ The economy has not improved. It has gotten worse, *if anything*.
if it comes to that see [1]COME
if I were you — used when giving advice to people about how they should behave ▪ I'd study more *if I were you*. [=I think you should study more]
if not for : in the absence of (something or someone) : WITHOUT ▪ *If not for* modern medicine, fewer babies would survive. ▪ *If not for* him, I wouldn't be where I am today. — often used in the phrases ***if it were not for*** and ***if it had not been for*** ▪ *If it were not for* your donations, many more children would go hungry. ▪ *If it hadn't been for* him, I wouldn't be where I am today.
if nothing else : at least — used to stress that an approving statement is true even though a stronger statement might

not be ▪ *If nothing else*, he's polite! ▪ The food was hot, *if nothing else*. [=the food may not have been very good, but at least it was hot]

if only — used to talk about something that you want to happen or be true ▪ *If only* she loved me in return! ▪ *If only* it would stop raining.

if you ask me — used in statements that express an opinion ▪ *If you ask me* [=in my opinion], he's a liar.

if you must see ¹MUST

what if see ¹WHAT

if *noun, pl* **ifs** [*count*] : something that is not certain : something that could either happen or not happen ▪ There are too many *ifs* in this proposal. ▪ They could win if everyone plays his best, but ***that's a big if*** [=it is not likely that everyone will play his best] ▪ (*US*) She's the most qualified candidate, and there are no ***ifs, ands, or buts*** about it! = (*Brit*) She's the most qualified candidate, and there are no ***ifs and buts*** about it! [=it is certain that she is the most qualified candidate]

if·fy /ˈɪfi/ *adj* **if·fi·er**; **-est** [*also more ~; most ~*] *informal*
1 : having many uncertain or unknown qualities or conditions : not certain ▪ an *iffy* situation/proposal/decision ▪ It's *iffy* [=*doubtful*] whether he can play in the game.
2 : not certain to be good ▪ I'm hoping to play golf tomorrow, but the weather looks a bit *iffy*. [=there's a chance that the weather will be bad]

-i·fy /əˌfaɪ/ *verb suffix* : -FY

ig·loo /ˈɪˌglu:/ *noun, pl* **-loos** [*count*] : a house made of blocks of snow or ice in the form of a dome

ig·ne·ous /ˈɪgnijəs/ *adj, technical* : formed when hot, liquid rock cools and becomes hard ▪ *igneous* rock

ig·nite /ɪgˈnaɪt/ *verb* **-nites**; **-nit·ed**; **-nit·ing**
1 a [+ *obj*] : to set (something) on fire : to cause (something) to burn : LIGHT ▪ *ignite* a bonfire ▪ The fire was *ignited* by sparks. **b** [*no obj*] : to begin burning : to catch fire ▪ The paper *ignited* on contact with sparks. ▪ a material that *ignites* easily
2 [+ *obj*] **a** : to give life or energy to (someone or something) ▪ Three wins in a row *ignited* the team. ▪ The story *ignited* [=*fired*] her imagination. **b** : to cause the sudden occurrence of (something) ▪ Her comments have *ignited* [=*sparked*] a controversy. ▪ His proposal is *igniting* opposition.
— **ig·nit·able** /ɪgˈnaɪtəbəl/ *adj* ▪ a material that is easily *ignitable* ▪ *ignitable* fuel

ig·ni·tion /ɪgˈnɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**
1 [*count*] **a** : the electrical system in an engine that causes the fuel to burn so that the engine begins working ▪ There's a problem with the car's *ignition*. **b** : the device that is used to start a car's engine — usually singular ▪ Put the key in the *ignition*. ▪ Turn on/off the *ignition*. — see picture at CAR
2 [*noncount*] : the act of causing something to start burning : the act of igniting something ▪ *ignition* of the fire

ig·no·ble /ɪgˈnoʊbəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal* : not deserving respect : not noble or honorable ▪ an *ignoble* past ▪ *ignoble* thoughts
— **ig·no·bly** /ɪgˈnoʊbli/ *adv* ▪ His career ended *ignobly*.

ig·no·min·i·ous /ˌɪgnəˈmɪnijəs/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal* : causing disgrace or shame ▪ They suffered an *ignominious* [=*humiliating*] defeat.
— **ig·no·min·i·ous·ly** *adv* ▪ failed *ignominiously*

ig·no·mi·ny /ˈɪgnəˌmɪni/ *noun, pl* **-nies** *formal* : a situation or event that causes you to feel ashamed or embarrassed [*noncount*] She had to endure the *ignominy* of being forced to resign. [*count*] the small/petty *ignominies* that are a part of everyone's life

ig·no·ra·mus /ˌɪgnəˈreɪməs/ *noun, pl* **-mus·es** [*count*] : a person who does not know much : an ignorant or stupid person ▪ I can't believe they let an *ignoramus* like that run the company.

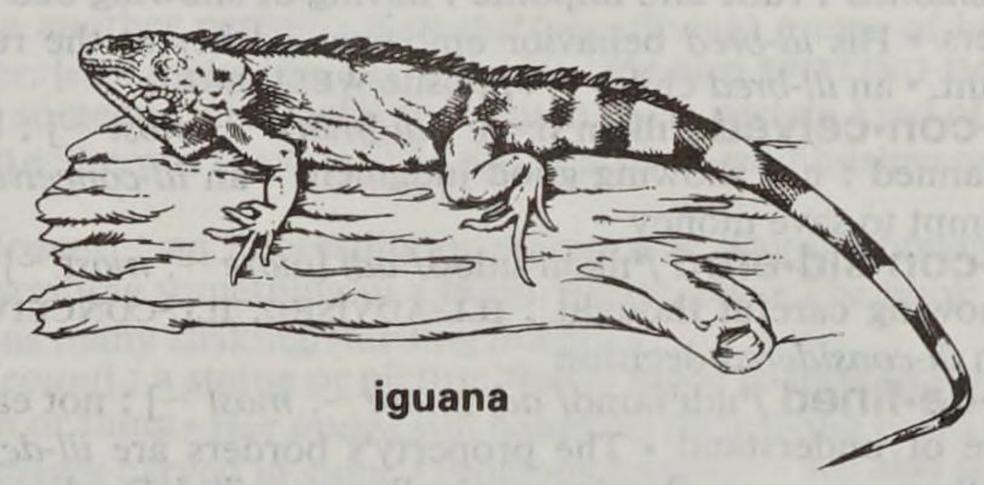
ig·no·rance /ˈɪgnərəns/ *noun* : a lack of knowledge, understanding, or education : the state of being ignorant [*noncount*] His racist attitudes were born out of *ignorance*. — often + *of* ▪ *Ignorance of* the law is no excuse (for violating it). ▪ Their decisions were made ***in ignorance of*** [=*without knowing*] the true nature of the situation. ▪ When asked about the reasons for these drastic changes, she ***pleaded/pled ignorance*** [=she said that she did not know the reasons] [*singular*] an appalling *ignorance* about/of other cultures

ignorance is bliss — used to say that a person who does not know about a problem does not worry about it

ig·no·rant /ˈɪgnərənt/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]
1 : lacking knowledge or information ▪ He is an *ignorant* old racist. ▪ She was *ignorant* about the dangers of the drug. — often + *of* ▪ They were *ignorant* [=*unaware*] *of* the facts. ▪ He remains *ignorant of* the changes. ▪ We were ***blissfully ignorant*** *of* the problems that had occurred.
2 : resulting from or showing a lack of knowledge ▪ It was an *ignorant* mistake. ▪ *ignorant* opinions
— **ig·no·rant·ly** *adv*

ig·nore /ɪgˈnoɚ/ *verb* **-nores**; **-nored**; **-nor·ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to refuse to show that you hear or see (something or someone) ▪ She tried to *ignore* him but he wouldn't leave her alone. ▪ I'll *ignore* that last remark.
2 : to do nothing about or in response to (something or someone) ▪ If we continue to *ignore* these problems they will only get worse. ▪ They *ignored* the warning signs. ▪ *ignoring* the poor

igua·na /ɪˈgwɑ:nə/ *noun, pl* **-nas** [*count*] : a large lizard that lives in the tropical regions of Central and South America



iguana

ikon *variant spelling of* ICON 3

il- see IN-

IL *abbr* Illinois

ilk /ɪlk/ *noun* [*singular*] : sort or kind ▪ The club attracts punk rockers and others of that *ilk*.

¹ill /ɪl/ *adj*
1 a : not well or healthy : sick or unhealthy ▪ a chronically/critically/terminally *ill* patient ▪ mentally *ill* adults — usually used after a verb ▪ I felt *ill* [=*sick*] all afternoon. ▪ What's wrong? You look *ill*. ▪ He had been *ill* for several years. ▪ More than half of those exposed to the virus eventually become *ill*. ▪ She suddenly ***fell ill*** = She was suddenly ***taken ill*** = (*US*) She suddenly ***took ill*** ▪ (*US*) The sight made her ***physically ill*** [=the sight made her nauseated] ▪ (*US*) He became ***violently ill*** [=he vomited] ✧ The comparative form ***iller*** and the superlative form ***illest*** are sometimes used for this sense. ▪ I have never seen him looking *iller*. [=*worse*, (*US*) *sicker*] ▪ That's the *illest* [=*worst*, (*US*) *sickest*] I have ever seen him. **b** *of health* : not normal or good ▪ Her *ill* [=*poor*] health forced her to retire early.
2 *always used before a noun* : harmful or damaging ▪ That dog can eat almost anything with no *ill* effects. ▪ They had been subjected to months of *ill* treatment.
3 *always used before a noun* : not helpful or lucky ▪ They seem to be plagued by *ill* [=*bad*] luck/fortune. ▪ an *ill* omen ✧ The saying ***it's an ill wind that blows no good*** or ***it's an ill wind that blows nobody (any) good*** means that something that is bad in most ways is usually also good in some way.
4 *always used before a noun* : not kind or friendly ▪ an angry customer's *ill* humor/temper ▪ We harbor no *ill* intentions toward them. ▪ Her comment caused some ***ill feeling/feelings*** [=feelings of anger or resentment] — see also ILL WILL

ill repute see REPUTE

with ill grace see ¹GRACE

²ill *adv*
1 : in a bad or imperfect way : BADLY, POORLY ▪ He is being *ill* served by his advisers. — often hyphenated ▪ He is ***ill-equipped*** [=he does not have the experience or preparation that is needed] to handle so much responsibility. ▪ They were ***ill-prepared*** for the cold weather. ▪ Her arrival was ***ill-timed*** [=she arrived at a bad time] ▪ a pet ***ill-suited*** for travel [=a pet that is difficult to take with you when you travel]
2 : in an unfavorable or unkind way ▪ Please don't think *ill* of me. ▪ He was a good man who never spoke *ill* of anyone. — see also *bode ill* at BODE

ill afford ✧ If you can *ill afford* something, you should not do it or get it because it will cause problems. ▪ We can *ill afford* more bad publicity. ▪ She bought a new car, which she could *ill afford*.

³ill *noun, pl* **ills**
1 [*noncount*] : bad or unlucky things ▪ She does not wish *ill* on/upon anyone. = She does not wish anyone *ill*. ▪ After the war, the country was changed, ***for good and for ill*** [=in good ways and in bad ways]

2 a [*count*] : a sickness or disease • They claimed to have a cure for every *ill*. [=*ailment*] — usually plural • childhood *ills* **b** ***ills*** [*plural*] : troubles or problems • the *ills* of society

I'll /ˈajəl/ — used as a contraction of *I will* • *I'll* call you.

ill–ad•vised /ˌɪlədˈvaɪzd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not wise or sensible : FOOLISH • an *ill-advised* decision • You would be *ill-advised* [=you would be making a mistake] to invest all your money in one company. — opposite WELL-ADVISED – **ill–ad•vis•ed•ly** /ˌɪlədˈvaɪzədli/ *adv*

ill–assorted *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having a mixture of people or things that do not seem to belong together • the room's *ill-assorted* furniture

ill at ease *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not comfortable or relaxed : nervous or embarrassed • Their stares made us (feel) *ill at ease*. • He seemed *ill at ease* when we spoke with him.

ill–bred /ˈɪlˈbrɛd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *somewhat old-fashioned* : rude and impolite : having or showing bad manners • His *ill-bred* behavior embarrassed her at the restaurant. • an *ill-bred* child — opposite WELL-BRED

ill–con•ceived /ˈɪlkənˈsiːvd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : badly planned : not showing good judgment • an *ill-conceived* attempt to save money

ill–con•sid•ered /ˈɪlkənˈsɪdəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not showing careful thought : ILL-ADVISED, ILL-CONCEIVED • an *ill-considered* decision

ill–de•fined /ˈɪldɪˈfaɪnd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not easy to see or understand • The property's borders are *ill-defined*. [=they are not clearly marked] • an *ill-defined* mission — opposite WELL-DEFINED

ill–dis•posed /ˈɪldɪˈspoʊzd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : not having a friendly or favorable feeling about someone or something — often + *to* or *toward* • She is *ill-disposed to* joining the organization. • Many people remain *ill-disposed toward* his plan. — opposite WELL-DISPOSED

il•le•gal /ɪˈliːgəl/ *adj*

1 : not allowed by the law : not legal • *illegal* [=*illicit, unlawful*] drugs • In this state, it is *illegal* for anyone under the age of 21 to drink alcohol. • an ***illegal alien/immigrant*** [=a foreign person who is living in a country without having official permission to live there]

2 : not allowed by the rules in a game • The team was penalized for an *illegal* play.

– **il•le•gal•i•ty** /ˌɪlɪˈgælәti/ *noun, pl* **-ties** [*noncount*] He claims that he was unaware of the *illegality* of these activities. [*count*] The campaign was accused of many fund-raising *illegalities*. [=illegal activities] – **il•le•gal•ly** /ɪˈliːgəli/ *adv* • She was parked *illegally* in a handicapped parking spot. • Her camera was *illegally* seized at the border. • people who are in the country *illegally*

il•leg•i•ble /ɪˈlɛʤәbәl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not clear enough to read : not legible • *illegible* handwriting

– **il•leg•i•bil•i•ty** /ɪˌlɛʤәˈbɪlәti/ *noun* [*noncount*] – **il•leg•i•bly** /ɪˈlɛʤәbli/ *adv* • He scribbled his name *illegibly* on the back of the envelope.

il•le•git•i•mate /ˌɪlɪˈʤɪtәmәt/ *adj* : not legitimate: such as **a** : born to a father and mother who are not married • an *illegitimate* child **b** : not allowed according to rules or laws • They took over the government in an *illegitimate* [=*illegal*] seizure of power. • an *illegitimate* government **c** [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not reasonable or fair • She thinks that my concerns are *illegitimate*. • They were fired from their jobs for *illegitimate* reasons.

– **il•le•git•i•ma•cy** /ˌɪlɪˈʤɪtәmәsi/ *noun* [*noncount*] • high rates of *illegitimacy* and teenage pregnancy • the *illegitimacy* of the government – **il•le•git•i•mate•ly** *adv*

ill–fat•ed /ˈɪlˈfeɪtәd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : ending in disaster : very unlucky • Everyone on the *ill-fated* trip died. • an *ill-fated* decision

ill–got•ten /ˈɪlˈgɑːtn̩/ *adj* : obtained in a dishonest or illegal way • an *ill-gotten* fortune • *ill-gotten* gains [=money and other valuable things gotten through dishonest methods]

ill–hu•mored (*US*) *or Brit* **ill–hu•moured** /ˈɪlˈhjuːmәd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *somewhat formal* : easily angered or annoyed • *ill-humored* old men

il•lib•er•al /ɪˈlɪbrәl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : not allowing people to think and act as they choose : not liberal • an *illiberal* attitude toward sex • *illiberal* policies/views

il•lic•it /ɪˈlɪsәt/ *adj*

1 : not allowed by law : unlawful or illegal • *illicit* drugs • He was arrested for selling *illicit* copies of the software.

2 : involving activities that are not considered morally acceptable • She had an *illicit* affair with her boss. • *illicit* sex – **il•lic•it•ly** *adv* • The drug is sold *illicitly* on the streets.

ill–informed *adj*

1 : not having a lot of knowledge especially about current news and events • *ill-informed* political candidates

2 : not based on facts • an *ill-informed* decision/opinion — opposite WELL-INFORMED

il•lit•er•a•cy /ɪˈlɪtәrәsi/ *noun, pl* **-cies**

1 [*noncount*] : the state of not knowing how to read or write • the government's efforts to reduce *illiteracy*

2 [*noncount*] : the state of not having knowledge about a particular subject • scientific *illiteracy* [=lack of knowledge about science] • cultural *illiteracy* • computer *illiteracy*

3 [*count*] : a mistake that is made in the use of language : an illiterate statement or expression • His letters contain many misspellings and *illiteracies*.

[1]il•lit•er•ate /ɪˈlɪtәrәt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : not knowing how to read or write • an *illiterate* person • She didn't want anyone to know that she was *illiterate*. — opposite LITERATE

2 : having or showing a lack of knowledge about a particular subject • She is politically *illiterate* and has never voted in an election. • He's *illiterate* when it comes to computers. — opposite LITERATE

3 : not grammatically correct • an *illiterate* expression

[2]illiterate *noun, pl* **-ates** [*count*] : a person who is illiterate • His parents were *illiterates*. • a class for computer *illiterates*

ill–judged *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : showing poor judgment or thinking • He lost all his money in an *ill-judged* attempt to start his own company.

ill–man•nered /ˈɪlˈmænәd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : having or showing bad manners : rude or impolite • an *ill-mannered* child • an *ill-mannered* remark — opposite WELL-MANNERED

ill–natured *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : not friendly or pleasant • an *ill-natured* man • an *ill-natured* remark — opposite GOOD-NATURED

ill•ness /ˈɪlnәs/ *noun, pl* **-ness•es**

1 [*noncount*] : a condition of being unhealthy in your body or mind • Her body was not able to defend itself against *illness*. • Hundreds of soldiers died from *illness* and hunger. • He showed no signs of *illness*. • mental *illness*

2 [*count*] : a specific condition that prevents your body or mind from working normally : a sickness or disease • Scientists have not yet found a cure for this *illness*. • cancer, diabetes, and other *illnesses* • an acute/chronic *illness* • She died at the age of 60 after a brief/long *illness*.

il•log•i•cal /ɪˈlɑːʤɪkәl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not showing good judgment : not thinking about things in a reasonable or sensible way : not logical • It is *illogical* to think that things will change on their own. • an *illogical* argument • You're being completely *illogical*.

– **il•log•i•cal•ly** /ɪˈlɑːʤɪkli/ *adv* • They *illogically* decided to stay.

ill–starred /ˈɪlˈstɑәd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *literary* : very unlucky : certain to end in disaster • an *ill-starred* [=*ill-fated*] romance

ill–tem•pered /ˈɪlˈtɛmpәd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : easily annoyed or angered : BAD-TEMPERED • We try to avoid our *ill-tempered* neighbor.

2 : showing that you are annoyed or angry • an *ill-tempered* reply

ill–timed *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : done or happening at a time that is not good or suitable • an *ill-timed* question • The movie's release was *ill-timed*. — opposite WELL-TIMED

il•lu•mi•nate /ɪˈluːmәˌneɪt/ *verb* **-nates**; **-nat•ed**; **-nat•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to supply (something) with light : to shine light on (something) • Candles *illuminate* [=*light*] the church. • the part of the moon *illuminated* by the sun

2 : to make (something) clear and easier to understand • A university study has *illuminated* the problem.

– **illuminating** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] • The lecture was very *illuminating*. • an *illuminating* discussion

illuminated *adj*

1 : lit by bright lights • an *illuminated* entrance

2 *of an old book, document, etc.* : decorated with gold or colored designs and pictures • an *illuminated* manuscript from the Middle Ages

il•lu•mi•na•tion /ɪˌluːmәˈneɪʃәn/ *noun, pl* **-tions**

1 [*noncount*] : light that comes into a room, that shines on something, etc. • The room's only *illumination* [=*lighting*]

came from a small window. ▪ When taking photographs indoors, use a flash for *illumination*.
2 [*noncount*] *formal* : knowledge or understanding ▪ They traveled to the temple in search of spiritual *illumination*.
3 [*count*] : a gold or colored decoration in an old book ▪ an old manuscript with beautiful *illuminations*
4 *illuminations* [*plural*] *Brit* : lights used as decorations ▪ *Illuminations* were hung throughout the city.

il•lu•mine /ɪˈluːmən/ *verb* **-mines**; **-mined**; **-min•ing** [+ *obj*] *literary* : ILLUMINATE ▪ streets *illumined* by gaslight

ill–used *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : treated in a bad or unfair way ▪ Some of the students felt *ill-used*. ▪ *ill-used* factory workers

il•lu•sion /ɪˈluːʒən/ *noun, pl* **-sions** [*count*]
1 : something that looks or seems different from what it is : something that is false or not real but that seems to be true or real ▪ The video game is designed to give the *illusion* that you are in control of an airplane. ▪ They used paint to create the *illusion* of metal. ▪ She says that all progress is just an *illusion*. — see also OPTICAL ILLUSION
2 : an incorrect idea : an idea that is based on something that is not true ▪ She had/harbored no *illusions* about how much work the project would require. [=she knew the project would require a lot of work] ▪ He was ***under the illusion*** [=he mistakenly believed] that he was a good player.

Do not confuse *illusion* with *allusion*.

il•lu•sion•ist /ɪˈluːʒənɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] : an entertainer who performs magic tricks : MAGICIAN

il•lu•so•ry /ɪˈluːsəri/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : based on something that is not true or real : based on an illusion ▪ an *illusory* hope ▪ an *illusory* sense of security

il•lus•trate /ˈɪləˌstreɪt/ *verb* **-trates**; **-trat•ed**; **-trat•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to give examples in order to make (something) easier to understand ▪ He *illustrated* his lecture with stories of his own experiences in the field. ▪ Please give a few examples to *illustrate* your point.
2 : to be proof or evidence of (something) ▪ These recent events *illustrate* [=*show, demonstrate*] the need for change in the country. ▪ The results *illustrate* how important it is to wear your seatbelt.
3 : to explain or decorate a story, book, etc., with pictures ▪ The students will write and *illustrate* their own stories. — often used as *(be) illustrated* ▪ The book *is illustrated* with many diagrams and charts.
– **il•lus•tra•tor** /ˈɪləˌstreɪtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*] ▪ an *illustrator* of children's books

il•lus•tra•tion /ˌɪləˈstreɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**
1 [*count*] : a picture or drawing in a book, magazine, etc. ▪ The *illustration* on page 30 shows the parts of an engine. ▪ a book with many photographs and *illustrations*
2 [*count*] : an example or story that is used to make something easier to understand ▪ The *illustrations* that he provided in his speech were very effective.
3 [*noncount*] : the act or process of illustrating something: such as **a** : the act or process of producing or providing pictures for a book, magazine, etc. ▪ They selected photographs to use for the *illustration* of the book. **b** : the act or process of giving examples to make something easier to understand ▪ *Illustration* is the key to good communication. ▪ ***By way of illustration***, [=as an example] let us examine this poem.

il•lus•tra•tive /ɪˈlʌstrətɪv, *Brit* ˈɪləstrətɪv/ *adj, formal*
1 : used to illustrate or explain something ▪ *illustrative* examples/stories
2 : serving as an example of something ▪ Her struggle is *illustrative* of [=is a good example of] the difficulties facing women in her culture.

il•lus•tri•ous /ɪˈlʌstrijəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : admired and respected very much because a lot was achieved ▪ He has had an *illustrious* military career. ▪ the company's *illustrious* history/past

ill will *noun* [*noncount*] : an unfriendly feeling : a feeling of hatred or dislike ▪ We bear/feel/harbor/have/hold no *ill will* toward each other.

im- see IN-

I'm /ˈaɪm/ — used as a contraction of *I am* ▪ *I'm* happy to meet you.

im•age /ˈɪmɪʤ/ *noun, pl* **-ag•es**
1 [*count*] : a picture that is produced by a camera, artist, mirror, etc. ▪ She studied her *image* in the mirror. ▪ The kids sat staring at the *images* on the TV screen. ▪ painters capturing *images* of war ▪ black-and-white *images* of the city — see also MIRROR IMAGE
2 [*count*] : a mental picture : the thought of how something looks or might look ▪ I can't get the *image* (of the accident) out of my mind. ▪ When you told the story I got this *image* (in my mind) of you as a child. ▪ His poem evokes *images* of the sea and warm summer days.
3 : the idea that people have about someone or something [*count*] She is worried about what motherhood will do to her *image* [=*reputation*] as a rock star. ▪ He is trying hard to improve/protect his *image*. ▪ The law suit has negatively affected the company's public *image*. ▪ a tarnished corporate *image* [*noncount*] a politician who cares more about *image* than about telling the truth
4 [*singular*] **a** : the form or appearance of someone or something ▪ " . . . God created man in his own *image* . . . " —Genesis 1:27 (KJV) **b** : someone who looks very much like another person ▪ He's the (very/living) *image* of his father. [=he looks like his father] — see also SPITTING IMAGE **c** : someone who looks very much like a certain kind of person ▪ She was the (very) *image* of a successful businesswoman.
5 [*count*] : an interesting or memorable way of showing or describing something in a book, movie, etc. ▪ The book contains many striking/startling *images*.
6 [*count*] : a statue or picture that is made to look like a person or thing ▪ Her *image* still hangs on their living room wall. ▪ images carved in stone ▪ religious *images* — see also GRAVEN IMAGE

im•ag•ery /ˈɪmɪʤri/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 *technical* : pictures or photographs ▪ They used ***satellite imagery*** [=pictures taken from satellites] to see the ice caps.
2 a : language that causes people to imagine pictures in their mind ▪ The book contains a great deal of sexual *imagery*. **b** : pictures of people or things in a work of art ▪ The movie was full of biblical/religious *imagery*. ▪ ***visual imagery***

imag•in•able /ɪˈmæʤənəbəl/ *adj* : possible for people to imagine ▪ Computers now allow us to do things that were hardly *imaginable* only a few years ago. ▪ The store has fruits of every kind *imaginable*. ▪ We tried every *imaginable* therapy. — often used to give emphasis ▪ We had the worst *imaginable* weather. = We had the worst weather *imaginable*. — opposite UNIMAGINABLE

imag•i•nary /ɪˈmæʤəˌneri, *Brit* ɪˈmæʤənri/ *adj* : not real : existing only in your mind or imagination ▪ The two groups were separated by an *imaginary* line down the middle of the room. ▪ an *imaginary* world of dragons and unicorns ▪ a child's *imaginary* friend

imag•i•na•tion /ɪˌmæʤəˈneɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**
1 a : the ability to imagine things that are not real : the ability to form a picture in your mind of something that you have not seen or experienced [*noncount*] You can find a solution if you use a little *imagination*. ▪ His plans to build a new stadium are the product of pure *imagination*. [=they are not based on reality; they are not likely to happen] [*count*] children with vivid/fertile/overactive *imaginations* ▪ The author does not tell us what happens to the characters. We have to use our *imagination*. ▪ He insists that these dangers are real and not just ***a figment of his imagination***. [=something that he has imagined] **b** [*noncount*] : the ability to think of new things ▪ Her painting shows a great deal of *imagination*. [=*creativity*] ▪ He's a competent writer, but he lacks *imagination*. ▪ He has no *imagination*.
2 [*noncount*] : something that only exists or happens in your mind ▪ Is it just my *imagination*, or is it getting warm in here?
by any/no stretch of the imagination see ²STRETCH
capture/catch someone's imagination : to make someone very interested or excited ▪ Her books have *captured the imaginations* of children from around the world. ▪ The story *caught the public imagination*. [=the public became very interested in the story]
leave (something) to the imagination : to not show or describe all of the parts or details of (something) ▪ Try to *leave something to the imagination*. ▪ The movie's sex scenes *leave nothing to the imagination*. [=they show everything] ▪ His explicit description of the crime scene *left little to the imagination*.

imag•i•na•tive /ɪˈmæʤənətɪv/ *adj*
1 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having or showing an ability to think of new and interesting ideas : having or showing imagination ▪ an *imaginative* [=*creative*] filmmaker ▪ She wrote an *imaginative* story about life on the planet Venus. ▪ The restaurant's

menu is quite *imaginative*. ▪ *imaginative* thinking/writing
2 *always used before a noun* : of or relating to imagination ▪ a child's *imaginative* life
– **imag·i·na·tive·ly** *adv* ▪ an *imaginatively* designed menu

imag·ine /ɪ'mædʒən/ *verb* **-ines**; **-ined**; **-in·ing** [+ *obj*]
1 a : to think of or create (something that is not real) in your mind ▪ a writer who has *imagined* an entire world of amazing creatures **b** : to form a picture or idea in your mind of (something that is not real or present) ▪ He asked us to *imagine* a world without poverty or war. ▪ It's hard for me to *imagine* having children. — often + *that* ▪ *Imagine that* you are relaxing on the beach. — often + *what, why*, etc. ▪ It's hard to *imagine what* it would be like to be so wealthy. ▪ I'm sure you can *imagine how* I felt. ▪ I can't *imagine why* she would be so late. [=I do not understand why she is so late] ▪ "Why is she so late?" "I can't *imagine*." — sometimes used in phrases that express surprise ▪ Can you *imagine*! A person like him being elected mayor! [=it is surprising or ridiculous to think of a person like him being elected mayor] ▪ Just *imagine* what such a change would mean! ▪ "This tree is more than 300 years old." "***Imagine that!***" [=isn't that remarkable]
2 : to have or form (an idea or opinion that is not accurate or based on reality) ▪ She *imagines* that she is very charming. = She *imagines* herself to be very charming. [=she thinks that she is charming but actually she is not charming] ▪ He was *imagining* all sorts of terrible things happening. ▪ "What was that sound? I think there's someone in the house!" "Oh, you're just ***imagining things***."
3 : to think or believe (something) ▪ I *imagine* it will snow at some point today. ▪ It's difficult to *imagine* that these changes will really be effective. ▪ The company will do better next year, I *imagine*. ▪ It was worse than they had *imagined*.

im·ag·ing /'ɪmədʒɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the process of creating and showing images on a computer ▪ digital *imaging* technology ▪ the *imaging* of a human heart — see also MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING

imag·in·ings /ɪ'mædʒənɪŋz/ *noun* [*plural*] : ideas, stories, etc. that are thought of in your mind but that are not true or real ▪ He has achieved a level of success beyond his wildest *imaginings*.

imam /ɪ'mɑ:m/ *noun, pl* **imams** [*count*] : a Muslim religious leader

im·bal·ance /ɪm'bæləns/ *noun, pl* **-anc·es** [*count*] : a state or condition in which different things do not occur in equal or proper amounts ▪ There is an *imbalance* between his work life and family life. [=he needs to spend less time at work and more time with his family] ▪ Her depression is caused by a chemical *imbalance* in the brain. ▪ the problem of racial *imbalance* in schools

im·be·cile /'ɪmbəsəl, *Brit* 'ɪmbəˌsi:l/ *noun, pl* **-ciles** [*count*] : a very stupid person : an idiot or fool ▪ He drank too much and started acting like a complete *imbecile*.
– **imbecile** *or* **im·be·cil·ic** /ˌɪmbə'sɪlɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ *imbecilic* behavior – **im·be·cil·i·ty** /ˌɪmbə'sɪləti/ *noun, pl* **-ties** [*noncount*] the *imbecility* of his behavior [*count*] He was repeating all his usual *imbecilities* about politics.

imbed *variant spelling of* EMBED

im·bibe /ɪm'baɪb/ *verb* **-bibes**; **-bibed**; **-bib·ing** *formal* + *often humorous*
1 [+ *obj*] : to drink (something) ▪ She *imbibed* vast quantities of coffee.
2 [*no obj*] : to drink alcohol ▪ She never *imbibes* but isn't offended when others do.

im·bro·glio /ɪm'broʊlˌjoʊ/ *noun, pl* **-glios** [*count*] *formal* : a complex dispute or argument ▪ a political/legal *imbroglio*

im·bue /ɪm'bju:/ *verb* **-bues**; **-bued**; **-bu·ing** [+ *obj*] : to cause (someone or something) to be deeply affected by a feeling or to have a certain quality ▪ A feeling of optimism *imbues* her works. ▪ His war experiences *imbued* in him [=caused him to feel] a strong sense of patriotism. — usually + *with* ▪ His war experiences *imbued* him *with* a strong sense of patriotism. — often used as *(be) imbued* ▪ He was *imbued with* a strong sense of patriotism. [=he felt very patriotic]

IMHO *abbr* in my humble opinion — used in e-mail, chatrooms, etc., to indicate that what is being said is just an opinion

im·i·tate /'ɪməˌteɪt/ *verb* **-tates**; **-tat·ed**; **-tat·ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to make or do something the same way as (something else) ▪ Their competitors soon *imitated* [=*copied*] the idea. ▪ Her style has been *imitated* by many other writers.
2 a : to do the same thing as (someone) ▪ She's always *imitating* [=*copying*] her older sister. **b** : to copy (someone's or something's behavior, sound, appearance, etc.) ▪ He's very good at *imitating* his father's voice. ▪ She can *imitate* the calls of many different birds.
– **im·i·ta·tor** /'ɪməˌteɪtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*] ▪ His style of directing has spawned/inspired a number of *imitators*.

[1]im·i·ta·tion /ˌɪmə'teɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**
1 : the act of copying or imitating someone or something [*noncount*] Children learn by *imitation* of adults. ▪ The restaurant was designed ***in imitation of*** a Japanese temple. [*count*] He did a hilarious *imitation* of his father.
2 [*count*] : something that is made or produced as a copy ▪ The real diamonds are in a museum. These are just *imitations*. ▪ a cheap/poor *imitation* ▪ The remake of the movie was a ***pale imitation*** [=an inferior version] of the original.

[2]imitation *adj, always used before a noun* : made to look like something that is valuable : not genuine ▪ *imitation* pearls ▪ *imitation* leather

im·i·ta·tive /'ɪməˌteɪtɪv, *Brit* 'ɪmətətɪv/ *adj, formal* : made or done to be like something or someone else ▪ *imitative* behavior ▪ The architecture is *imitative* of a Japanese temple.

im·mac·u·late /ɪ'mækjələt/ *adj*
1 : perfectly clean ▪ The house was always *immaculate*. [=*spotless*]
2 : having no flaw or error : PERFECT ▪ She had an *immaculate* record of service.
– **im·mac·u·late·ly** *adv* ▪ an *immaculately* dressed man

im·ma·te·ri·al /ˌɪmə'tirijəl/ *adj* : not important or significant ▪ Whether or not he intended to cause problems is *immaterial*. ▪ The fact that she is a woman is *immaterial* and irrelevant. — often used in legal contexts ▪ The judge did not admit the evidence on the grounds that it was *immaterial*. — opposite [2]MATERIAL 2

im·ma·ture /ɪmə'tuɚ, ɪmə'ʧɚ/ *adj* : not mature: such as **a** : not fully developed or grown ▪ The flock included both adult and *immature* birds. ▪ The fruit was still *immature*. [=*unripe*] **b** [*more* ~; *most* ~] : acting in a childish way : having or showing a lack of emotional maturity ▪ emotionally *immature* adults ▪ His teachers have complained about his *immature* behavior.
– **im·ma·tu·ri·ty** /ɪmə'turəti, ɪmə'ʧɚrəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ His tantrums are a sign of *immaturity*.

im·mea·sur·able /ɪ'mɛʒərəbəl/ *adj, formal* : very great in size or amount : impossible to measure ▪ The war has caused *immeasurable* damage. ▪ The new medicine has brought about an *immeasurable* improvement in her life.
– **im·mea·sur·ably** /ɪ'mɛʒərəbli/ *adv* ▪ Her life has improved *immeasurably*.

im·me·di·a·cy /ɪ'mi:dijəsi/ *noun* : the quality that makes something seem important or interesting because it is or seems to be happening now [*noncount*] Television coverage gave the war greater *immediacy* than it had ever before had. [*singular*] There is an *immediacy* to watching a live performance that you cannot get from hearing a recording.

im·me·di·ate /ɪ'mi:dijət/ *adj*
1 a : happening or done without delay ▪ This requires your *immediate* attention. ▪ The new restaurant was an *immediate* success. ▪ This crisis calls for *immediate* action. ▪ The response to the crisis was *immediate*. **b** : happening or existing now ▪ The wildfire poses no *immediate* threat to any houses in the area. ▪ The danger is not *immediate*. **c** *always used before a noun* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : important now ▪ Our (most) *immediate* concern is to provide aid to the victims.
2 *always used before a noun* **a** : close to a particular place ▪ They have evacuated everyone in the *immediate* area/vicinity of the wildfire. ▪ outside the *immediate* neighborhood/surroundings **b** : close to a particular time or event ▪ Many people suffered in the war's *immediate* aftermath. ▪ The effect of the new policy will be unknown for the *immediate* future.
3 *always used before a noun* : having no other person or thing in between ▪ Turn right onto Main Street and then take your *immediate* left. [=quickly turn onto the next street on your left] ▪ He was sitting to my *immediate* right. ▪ The company president will choose her *immediate* successor. ▪ She was my *immediate* predecessor ▪ He referred me to his *immediate* superior. ▪ Hospital visits are limited to ***immediate family***. [=a person's parents, brothers and sisters, husband or wife, and children]
4 *always used before a noun* : coming straight from a cause or reason ▪ The *immediate* [=*direct*] cause of death was pneu-

monia. ▪ There is an *immediate* connection between the two events.

[1]im•me•di•ate•ly /ɪ'mi:dijətli/ *adv*

1 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* : with no person or thing in between ▪ They live in the house *immediately* [=*directly*] behind this one. ▪ the person *immediately* to my left ▪ Dinner was served *immediately* after the ceremony.

2 : without any delay ▪ We need to leave *immediately*. [=*at once, right away*] ▪ The new law will become effective *immediately*. ▪ The cause of the problem was not *immediately* clear. [=is was not known right away]

[2]immediately *conj, Brit, formal* : immediately after : as soon as ▪ *Immediately* you fill out this form, we can start processing your request.

im•me•mo•ri•al /ˌɪmə'morijəl/ *adj, formal + literary* : very old or ancient : from a time so long ago that it cannot be remembered ▪ the *immemorial* roots of human spirituality ▪ People have been creating art since ***time immemorial***. [=a very long time ago] ▪ stories passed down from *time immemorial*

– **im•me•mo•ri•al•ly** /ˌɪmə'morijəli/ *adv* ▪ an *immemorially* ancient custom

im•mense /ɪ'mɛns/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : very great in size or amount ▪ He inherited an *immense* fortune. ▪ *immense* power/wealth ▪ Her movies continue to enjoy *immense* [=*enormous, tremendous*] popularity. ▪ She is an artist of *immense* talent.

– **im•mense•ly** *adv* ▪ *immensely* popular/successful/wealthy ▪ We enjoyed ourselves *immensely*. [=*very much*]

im•men•si•ty /ɪ'mɛnsəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] : extremely great size ▪ the *immensity* of the universe/ocean ▪ She couldn't understand the *immensity* of their problem.

im•merse /ɪ'məs/ *verb* **-mers•es**; **-mersed**; **-mers•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to put (something) in a liquid so that all parts are completely covered ▪ *Immerse* the fabric completely in the dye.

2 : to make (yourself) fully involved *in* some activity or interest ▪ She had *immersed* herself *in* writing short stories. ▪ He *immersed* himself *in* the culture of the island. — often used as *(be) immersed* ▪ He became completely/totally *immersed in* their culture. ▪ She *was immersed in* her work.

im•mer•sion /ɪ'məʒən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : the act of putting someone or something completely in a liquid or the state of being completely in a liquid ▪ *immersion* in hot water

2 a : complete involvement in some activity or interest ▪ We were surprised by his complete *immersion* in the culture of the island. **b** : a method of learning a foreign language by being taught entirely in that language ▪ He learned French through *immersion*. ▪ I'm taking an *immersion* course in German.

im•mi•grant /'ɪməgrənt/ *noun, pl* **-grants** [*count*] : a person who comes to a country to live there ▪ Millions of *immigrants* came to America from Europe in the 19th century. ▪ The city has a large *immigrant* population. ▪ an ***illegal immigrant*** [=a person who enters and lives in a country without official permission] — compare EMIGRANT, MIGRANT

im•mi•grate /'ɪməˌgreɪt/ *verb* **-grates**; **-grat•ed**; **-grating** [*no obj*] : to come to a country to live there — often + *to* ▪ My grandparents *immigrated* to America. — sometimes + *from* ▪ My grandparents *immigrated* from Hungary. — compare EMIGRATE, MIGRATE

– **im•mi•gra•tion** /ˌɪmə'greɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ waves of *immigration* from eastern Europe ▪ *immigration* policies

im•mi•nent /'ɪmənənt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : happening very soon ▪ We are awaiting their *imminent* arrival. ▪ Their arrival is *imminent*. ▪ These patients are facing *imminent* death. ▪ The species is in *imminent* danger of extinction. [=the species is very close to becoming extinct]

Do not confuse *imminent* with *eminent*.

– **im•mi•nence** /'ɪmənəns/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *imminence* of danger – **im•mi•nent•ly** *adv*

im•mo•bile /ɪ'moʊbəl, ɪ'moʊˌbajəl/ *adj*

1 : unable to move ▪ The tranquilizer made the animal *immobile*. ▪ The accident left her *immobile*.

2 : not moving ▪ The guard stood *immobile* [=*motionless*] by the gate.

– **im•mo•bil•i•ty** /ˌɪmoʊ'bɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ physical *immobility*

im•mo•bi•lize *also Brit* **im•mo•bi•lise** /ɪ'moʊbəˌlaɪz/ *verb* **-liz•es**; **-lized**; **-liz•ing** [+ *obj*] : to keep (something or someone) from moving or working : to make (something or someone) immobile ▪ Doctors *immobilized* her wrist by putting it in a cast. ▪ I was *immobilized* by fear/uncertainty.

– **im•mo•bi•li•za•tion** *also Brit* **im•mo•bi•li•sa•tion** /ɪˌmoʊbələ'zeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] – **im•mo•bi•liz•er** *also Brit* **im•mo•bi•lis•er** /ɪ'moʊbəˌlaɪzə/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ The car comes with an (engine) *immobilizer*. [=a device that prevents the engine from being started without a key]

im•mod•er•ate /ɪ'mɑ:dərət/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : going beyond reasonable limits : not moderate ▪ He talked to us about the dangers of *immoderate* [=*excessive*] drinking.

– **im•mod•er•ate•ly** *adv* ▪ He drinks *immoderately*.

im•mod•est /ɪ'mɑ:dəst/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not modest: such as **a** : having or showing a high or too high opinion of yourself or your worth ▪ Although it might sound *immodest* of me to say so, I am very proud of what we have accomplished. **b** *of clothing* : showing a lot of your body in a way that is considered improper ▪ She wore a rather *immodest* [=*revealing*] dress to the party.

– **im•mod•est•ly** *adv* ▪ He *immodestly* named the company after himself. ▪ She was dressed *immodestly*. – **im•mod•es•ty** /ɪ'mɑ:dəsti/ *noun* [*noncount*]

im•mo•late /'ɪməˌleɪt/ *verb* **-lates**; **-lat•ed**; **-lat•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to kill or destroy (someone or something) by fire ▪ a man who *immolated* himself as an act of protest

– **im•mo•la•tion** /ˌɪmə'leɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

im•mor•al /ɪ'morəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not morally good or right : morally evil or wrong ▪ Don't condemn her: there was nothing *immoral* about what she did. ▪ It was *immoral* of her to tell lies like that. ▪ *immoral* behavior/acts — compare AMORAL, MORAL

– **im•mo•ral•i•ty** /ˌɪmoə'ælәti/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ sexual *immorality* ▪ the *immorality* of their behavior – **im•mor•al•ly** /ɪ'morəli/ *adv*

[1]im•mor•tal /ɪ'moətl/ *adj*

1 : not capable of dying : living forever ▪ the *immortal* soul ▪ *immortal* gods — opposite MORTAL

2 — used to say that something will last or be remembered forever ▪ *immortal* [=*everlasting*] fame ▪ his *immortal* [=*timeless*] melodies

[2]immortal *noun, pl* **-tals** [*count*]

1 : an immortal being (such as a god or goddess) — compare MORTAL

2 : a famous person who will never be forgotten ▪ baseball *immortals*

im•mor•tal•i•ty /ˌɪˌmoə'tæləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the quality or state of someone or something that will never die or be forgotten : the quality or state of being immortal ▪ She believed in the *immortality* of the soul. ▪ He found/achieved *immortality* through his films. — opposite MORTALITY

im•mor•tal•ize *also Brit* **im•mor•tal•ise** /ɪ'moətəˌlaɪz/ *verb* **-iz•es**; **-ized**; **-iz•ing** [+ *obj*] : to cause (someone or something) to be remembered forever ▪ The battle was *immortalized* in a famous poem. ▪ The explorers were *immortalized* when the mountains were named after them.

im•mov•able /ɪ'mu:vəbəl/ *adj*

1 : not able to be moved : firmly fixed in place ▪ an *immovable* object — opposite MOVABLE

2 : not able to be changed or persuaded ▪ He has remained *immovable* [=*steadfast*] in his opposition to the proposed law.

im•mune /ɪ'mju:n/ *adj*

1 *not used before a noun* **a** : not capable of being affected by a disease — usually + *to* ▪ Most people are *immune to* the disease. **b** : not influenced or affected by something — + *to* ▪ They are *immune to* persuasion/criticism. ▪ She is *immune to* the power of advertising.

2 *not used before a noun* : having special protection *from* something that is required for most people by law ▪ The court ruled that he was *immune from* prosecution [=that he could not be prosecuted] because of his diplomatic status. ▪ *immune* [=*exempt*] *from* punishment

3 *always used before a noun* : of or relating to the body's immune system ▪ *immune* cells ▪ an *immune* response/reaction

immune system *noun, pl* ~ **-tems** [*count*] : the system that protects your body from diseases and infections ▪ a strong/healthy *immune system*

im•mu•ni•ty /ɪ'mju:nәti/ *noun*

1 *medical* : the power to keep yourself from being affected by a disease — usually + *to* [*noncount*] They have developed *immunity to* the virus. [*singular*] They have developed an *immunity to* the virus.

2 [*noncount*] : special protection from what is required for most people by law — usually + *from* ▪ He was granted *immunity from* prosecution. — see also DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY

im•mu•nize *also Brit* **im•mu•nise** /ˈɪmjəˌnaɪz/ *verb* **-niz•es**; **-nized**; **-niz•ing** [+ *obj*] : to give (someone) a vaccine to prevent infection by a disease ▪ Many people had to be *immunized* after being exposed to the disease. — often + *against* ▪ All the children have been *immunized against* polio.
– **im•mu•ni•za•tion** *also Brit* **im•mu•ni•sa•tion** /ˌɪmjənəˈzeɪʃən, *Brit* ˌɪmjəˌnaɪˈzeɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count, noncount*]

im•mu•no•de•fi•cien•cy /ˌɪmjəˌnoʊdɪˈfɪʃənsi/ *noun, pl* **-cies** [*count*] *medical* : a condition in which your body cannot produce enough of the substances or cells that it would normally produce to fight infection

im•mu•nol•o•gy /ˌɪmjəˈnɑːlədʒi/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a science that deals with the ways in which the body protects itself from diseases and infections

im•mu•ta•ble /ɪˈmjuːtəbəl/ *adj, formal* : unable to be changed ▪ the *immutable* laws of nature ▪ *immutable* opposition
– **im•mu•ta•bil•i•ty** /ɪˌmjuːtəˈbɪlətiː/ *noun* [*noncount*] – **im•mu•ta•bly** /ɪˈmjuːtəbliː/ *adv* ▪ She was not *immutably* opposed to the plan.

imp /ˈɪmp/ *noun, pl* **imps** [*count*]
1 : a small creature that plays harmful tricks in children's stories
2 : a child who causes trouble in a playful way : a mischievous child ▪ a lovable *imp* — see also IMPISH

[1]im•pact /ˈɪmˌpækt/ *noun, pl* **-pacts**
1 : the act or force of one thing hitting another [*count*] No one could have survived such an *impact*. [*noncount*] The bomb exploded ***on/upon impact*** (with the ground). [=when it hit the ground]
2 [*count*] : a powerful or major influence or effect ▪ These warnings have been heard so often that they have lost their *impact*. ▪ The book had a huge *impact* when it first came out. ▪ We need to be concerned about the environmental *impacts* of all this construction. ▪ She expects to make an immediate *impact* at work. — often + *on* ▪ The stress of her job is having a negative *impact on* her health. [=is harming her health] ▪ We hope that these programs will have a positive *impact on* the community. [=will help the community]

[2]im•pact /ˌɪmˈpækt/ *verb* **-pacts**; **-pact•ed**; **-pact•ing**
1 : to have a strong and often bad effect on (something or someone) : AFFECT [+ *obj*] No one is sure how these changes will *impact* our relations with other countries. ▪ Both events negatively *impacted* her life. ▪ The tax increase will *impact* low-income families the most. [*no obj*] The poor economy is ***impacting on/upon*** small businesses.
2 [+ *obj*] *formal* : to hit (something) with great force ▪ A crater was formed at the point where the meteor *impacted* the planet's surface.

im•pact•ed /ɪmˈpæktəd/ *adj, of a tooth* : growing under another tooth ▪ *impacted* wisdom teeth

im•pair /ɪmˈpeɚ/ *verb* **-pairs**; **-paired**; **-pair•ing** [+ *obj*] : to make (something) weaker or worse ▪ Smoking can *impair* your health. ▪ Drinking *impairs* a person's ability to think clearly. ▪ His memory was so *impaired* by age that he often forgot where he was. ***synonyms*** see INJURE
– **im•paired** /ɪmˈpeɚd/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ The disease causes *impaired* vision/hearing in elderly people. — sometimes used in combination ▪ hearing-*impaired* people [=people with impaired hearing]

im•pair•ment /ɪmˈpeɚmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments** : a condition in which a part of your body or mind is damaged and does not work well [*count*] a hearing/memory/visual *impairment* [*noncount*] The loud noise caused *impairment* of her hearing.

im•pa•la /ɪmˈpɑːlə/ *noun, pl* **im•pa•las** *or* **impala** [*count*] : a large brownish African animal

im•pale /ɪmˈpeɪl/ *verb* **-pales**; **-paled**; **-pal•ing** [+ *obj*] : to cause a pointed object to go into or through (someone or something) — often + *on* ▪ He slipped and *impaled* his leg *on* a metal spike. — usually used as *(be) impaled* ▪ The matador *was impaled* by the bull's horns. = The matador *was impaled on* the bull's horns.

im•pan•el *or* **em•pan•el** /ɪmˈpænl/ *verb* **-els**; *US* **-eled** *or Brit* **-elled**; *US* **-el•ing** *or Brit* **-el•ling** [+ *obj*] *law* : to choose people to serve on a jury ▪ *impanel* jurors = *impanel* a jury

im•part /ɪmˈpɑɚt/ *verb* **-parts**; **-part•ed**; **-part•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal*
1 : to give (something, such as a quality) to a thing ▪ Her presence *imparted* a sense of importance to the meeting. ▪ The oil *imparts* a distinctive flavor to the sauce. ▪ The chemicals *imparted* a bluish color to the paper.
2 : to make (something) known to someone ▪ He has clever ways of *imparting* [=*conveying, communicating*] knowledge to his students.

im•par•tial /ɪmˈpɑɚʃəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : treating all people and groups equally : not partial or biased ▪ an *impartial* analysis of the case ▪ an *impartial* judge/jury/observer
– **im•par•tial•i•ty** /ɪmˌpɑɚʃiˈæləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] – **im•par•tial•ly** /ɪmˈpɑɚʃəli/ *adv*

im•pass•able /ɪmˈpæsəbəl/ *adj* : impossible to pass, cross, or travel over ▪ The roads were made *impassable* by the flood/snow.

im•passe /ˈɪmˌpæs, *Brit* æmˈpɑːs/ *noun, pl* **-pass•es** [*count*] : a situation in which no progress seems possible ▪ Negotations are at an *impasse*. = Negotations have reached/hit an *impasse*. ▪ An arbitrator was called in to break the *impasse*. ▪ She had reached an *impasse* in her career.

im•pas•sioned /ɪmˈpæʃənd/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : showing or feeling very strong emotions ▪ Her lawyer made an *impassioned* argument in her defense. ▪ an *impassioned* speech/plea ▪ *impassioned* [=*passionate*] animal-rights activists

im•pas•sive /ɪmˈpæsɪv/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : not showing emotion ▪ an *impassive* observer ▪ Her face/expression remained *impassive* throughout the trial.
– **im•pas•sive•ly** *adv* ▪ She sat *impassively* throughout the trial. – **im•pas•siv•i•ty** /ɪmˌpæˈsɪvəti/ *noun* [*noncount*]

im•pa•tient /ɪmˈpeɪʃənt/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]
1 a : not willing to wait for something or someone : not patient ▪ After months of delays, customers are becoming/growing *impatient*. ▪ Customers have grown *impatient* with/at the repeated delays. ▪ "Aren't you ready yet?" "Don't be so *impatient*. There's no need to hurry." — often + *for* ▪ He was *impatient for* the departure of his flight. ▪ She was becoming more *impatient for* the opportunity to begin working. **b** : wanting or eager *to do* something without waiting ▪ She was *impatient to leave*.
2 : showing that you do not want to wait : showing a lack of patience ▪ an *impatient* answer/gesture/look
– **im•pa•tience** /ɪmˈpeɪʃəns/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ He sighed with *impatience*. ▪ Her *impatience* with/at the many delays was obvious. ▪ Her *impatience* to leave was obvious. – **im•pa•tient•ly** *adv* ▪ Customers are waiting *impatiently* for the delays to end.

im•peach /ɪmˈpiːʧ/ *verb* **-peach•es**; **-peached**; **-peach•ing** [+ *obj*] *law*
1 : to charge (a public official) with a crime done while in office ▪ Congress will vote on whether or not to *impeach* the President. ▪ *impeach* a judge
2 *formal* : to cause doubts about the truthfulness of (a witness, testimony, etc.) ▪ The defense lawyers tried to *impeach* the witness's testimony by forcing him to admit that he had changed his story.
– **im•peach•able** /ɪmˈpiːʧəbəl/ *adj* ▪ an *impeachable* offense/crime – **im•peach•ment** /ɪmˈpiːʧmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments** [*count, noncount*]

im•pec•ca•ble /ɪmˈpɛkəbəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : free from fault or error ▪ The craftsmanship is *impeccable*. [=*flawless*] ▪ He speaks *impeccable* [=*perfect*] English. ▪ She has *impeccable* taste in music. ▪ His manners are *impeccable*.
– **im•pec•ca•bly** /ɪmˈpɛkəbliː/ *adv* ▪ He behaved *impeccably*. ▪ She was *impeccably* dressed.

im•pe•cu•nious /ˌɪmpɪˈkjuːnijəs/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal* : having little or no money : POOR ▪ an *impecunious* student

im•pede /ɪmˈpiːd/ *verb* **-pedes**; **-ped•ed**; **-ped•ing** [+ *obj*] : to slow the movement, progress, or action of (someone or something) ▪ He claims that economic growth is being *impeded* by government regulations. ▪ They were accused of *impeding* [=*blocking, hindering*] the administration of justice. ▪ The soldiers could not *impede* the enemy's advance.

im•ped•i•ment /ɪmˈpɛdəmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments** [*count*]
1 : something that makes it difficult to do or complete something : something that interferes with movement or progress — often + *to* ▪ There were no legal *impediments to* the deal.
2 : a condition that makes it difficult to speak normally ▪ a speech *impediment*

im•pel /ɪmˈpɛl/ *verb* **-pels**; **-pelled**; **-pel•ling** [+ *obj*] : to cause (someone) to feel a strong need or desire to do something ▪ They were *impelled* [=*driven*] by their sense of adven-

ture. ▪ His interest in the American Civil War *impelled* him to make repeated visits to Gettysburg. ▪ She felt *impelled* to give a speech after the performance.

im•pend•ing /ɪmˈpɛndɪŋ/ *adj, always used before a noun* : happening or likely to happen soon ▪ She's worried about an *impending* business trip. ▪ We need to prepare for their *impending* arrival.

im•pen•e•tra•ble /ɪmˈpɛnətrəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : impossible to pass or see through ▪ an *impenetrable* wall/barrier/jungle ▪ The fort's defenses were thought to be *impenetrable*. ▪ *impenetrable* darkness/fog
2 : impossible to understand ▪ an *impenetrable* mystery ▪ an *impenetrable* secret code
– **im•pen•e•tra•bil•i•ty** /ɪmˌpɛnətrəˈbɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] – **im•pen•e•tra•bly** /ɪmˈpɛnətrəbli/ *adv* ▪ an *impenetrably* complex mystery ▪ an *impenetrably* thick wall

[1]im•per•a•tive /ɪmˈperətɪv/ *adj*
1 [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : very important ▪ an *imperative* duty ▪ It is *imperative* that the public be informed about these dangers. = It is *imperative* to inform the public about these dangers.
2 *grammar* : having the form that expresses a command rather than a statement or a question ▪ "Eat your spinach!" is an *imperative* sentence. ▪ "Help" in the sentence "Help me!" is an *imperative* verb. ▪ a verb in the *imperative* mood — compare DECLARATIVE, INDICATIVE, INTERROGATIVE, SUBJUNCTIVE
3 *formal* : expressing a command in a forceful and confident way ▪ People resented his *imperative* tone of voice.

[2]imperative *noun, pl* **-tives**
1 [*count*] *formal* : a command, rule, duty, etc., that is very important or necessary ▪ She considers it a moral *imperative* to help people in need. ▪ legal *imperatives*
2 *grammar* **a** ***the imperative*** : the form that a verb or sentence has when it is expressing a command ▪ "Eat your spinach!" is in *the imperative*. **b** [*count*] : an imperative verb or sentence ▪ "Go" and "buy" are *imperatives* in the sentence "Please go to the store and buy some milk."

im•per•cep•ti•ble /ˌɪmpəˈsɛptəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : impossible to see or notice ▪ *imperceptible* changes/differences ▪ an almost *imperceptible* smile/breeze ▪ These changes will be *imperceptible* to most people.
– **im•per•cep•ti•bly** /ˌɪmpəˈsɛptəbli/ *adv*

[1]im•per•fect /ɪmˈpəfɪkt/ *adj*
1 : having mistakes or problems : not perfect ▪ an *imperfect* society ▪ It's an *imperfect* solution to a difficult problem. ▪ He had an *imperfect* understanding of the task. ▪ *imperfect* [=*defective*] clothing
2 *grammar* : of or relating to a verb tense used to express an incomplete action in the past or a state that continued for a period of time in the past ▪ In "He was singing when I came in," "was singing" is in the *imperfect* tense.
– **im•per•fect•ly** *adv* ▪ an *imperfectly* patched hole

[2]imperfect *noun*
the imperfect *grammar* : the imperfect tense of a verb ▪ a verb in *the imperfect*

im•per•fec•tion /ˌɪmpəˈfɛkʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**
1 [*count*] : a small flaw or bad part ▪ He detected several *imperfections* in the surface of the jewel. ▪ She tried to hide the *imperfection* in the cloth. ▪ skin *imperfections* [=*blemishes*]
2 [*noncount*] : the state of being imperfect : lack of perfection ▪ human *imperfection*

im•pe•ri•al /ɪmˈpirijəl/ *adj, always used before a noun* : of or relating to an empire or an emperor ▪ the Roman *imperial* age ▪ a member of the *imperial* family/army ▪ *imperial* power ▪ the *imperial* palace

im•pe•ri•al•ism /ɪmˈpirijəˌlɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : a policy or practice by which a country increases its power by gaining control over other areas of the world ▪ British *imperialism* created the enormous British Empire.
2 : the effect that a powerful country or group of countries has in changing or influencing the way people live in other, poorer countries ▪ Western *imperialism* ▪ economic/cultural *imperialism*

im•pe•ri•al•ist /ɪmˈpirijəlɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] : a person who practices or supports imperialism
– **imperialist** *adj* ▪ *imperialist* power/expansion – **im•pe•ri•al•is•tic** /ɪmˌpirijəˈlɪstɪk/ *adj* ▪ *imperialistic* aims/goals

im•per•il /ɪmˈperəl/ *verb* **-ils**; *US* **-iled** *or Brit* **-illed**; *US* **-il•ing** *or Brit* **-il•ling** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to put (something or someone) in a dangerous situation : ENDANGER ▪ The toxic fumes *imperiled* the lives of the trapped miners. ▪ The financial health of the company was *imperiled* by a string of bad investments. ▪ a list of *imperiled* species

im•pe•ri•ous /ɪmˈpirijəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : having or showing the proud and unpleasant attitude of someone who gives orders and expects other people to obey them ▪ an *imperious* manner/tone/gesture ▪ *imperious* bureaucrats
– **im•pe•ri•ous•ly** *adv* – **im•pe•ri•ous•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

im•per•ish•able /ɪmˈperɪʃəbəl/ *adj, formal* : never to be forgotten : lasting forever ▪ *imperishable* fame ▪ an *imperishable* masterpiece

im•per•ma•nent /ɪmˈpəmənənt/ *adj, formal* : not lasting forever : not permanent ▪ an *impermanent* [=*temporary*] solution ▪ *impermanent* materials
– **im•per•ma•nence** /ɪmˈpəmənəns/ *noun* [*noncount*]

im•per•me•able /ɪmˈpəmijəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *technical* : not allowing something (such as a liquid) to pass through ▪ an *impermeable* layer of rock ▪ a fabric *impermeable* to moisture
– **im•per•me•abil•i•ty** /ɪmˌpəmijəˈbɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*]

im•per•mis•si•ble /ɪmˌpəˈmɪsəbəl/ *adj, formal* : not allowed or permitted : not permissible ▪ Such behavior is *impermissible* under the new guidelines. ▪ an *impermissible* breach of etiquette
– **im•per•mis•si•bly** /ɪmˌpəˈmɪsəbli/ *adv*

im•per•son•al /ɪmˈpəsənəl/ *adj*
1 [*more* ~; *most* ~] **a** : having or showing no interest in individual people or their feelings : lacking emotional warmth ▪ cold, *impersonal* cities ▪ a giant *impersonal* corporation **b** : not relating to or influenced by personal feelings ▪ We discussed the weather and other *impersonal* topics. ▪ He maintained an *impersonal*, professional attitude.
2 *grammar* : having no specified subject or no subject other than "it" ▪ "Rained" in "it rained" is an *impersonal* verb. ▪ an *impersonal* sentence/construction
– **im•per•son•al•ly** /ɪmˈpəsənəli/ *adv* ▪ They were treated *impersonally*.

im•per•son•ate /ɪmˈpəsəˌneɪt/ *verb* **-ates**; **-at•ed**; **-at•ing** [+ *obj*] : to pretend to be (another person) ▪ He was arrested for *impersonating* a police officer. ▪ a comedian with a talent for *impersonating* famous politicians and actors
– **im•per•son•a•tion** /ɪmˌpəsəˈneɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*] He does a great *impersonation* of the President. [*noncount*] He was arrested for *impersonation* of a police officer.

im•per•son•a•tor /ɪmˈpəsəˌneɪtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*] : a person who pretends to be someone else; *especially* : a person who entertains people by pretending to be another person ▪ an Elvis *impersonator* [=an entertainer who pretends to be Elvis Presley] ▪ a female *impersonator* [=a male entertainer who plays the role of a woman]

im•per•ti•nent /ɪmˈpətn̩ənt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : rude and showing a lack of respect ▪ She asked a few *impertinent* questions. ▪ an *impertinent* young woman
– **im•per•ti•nence** /ɪmˈpətn̩əns/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ I was shocked by the *impertinence* of her questions. – **im•per•ti•nent•ly** *adv*

im•per•turb•able /ˌɪmpəˈtɚbəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : very calm : very hard to disturb or upset ▪ Although he seems outwardly *imperturbable*, he can get very angry at times. ▪ an *imperturbable* demeanor/disposition
– **im•per•turb•abil•i•ty** /ˌɪmpəˌtɚbəˈbɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] – **im•per•turb•ably** /ˌɪmpəˈtɚbəbli/ *adv* ▪ He sat there *imperturbably* as they insulted him.

im•per•vi•ous /ɪmˈpəvijəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 *technical* : not allowing something (such as water or light) to enter or pass through — usually + *to* ▪ a substance *impervious to* light ▪ a coat *impervious to* rain
2 *formal* : not bothered or affected by something — usually + *to* ▪ He seems *impervious to* criticism.
– **im•per•vi•ous•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

im•pet•u•ous /ɪmˈpɛʧəwəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : acting or done quickly and without thought : controlled by emotion rather than thought : IMPULSIVE ▪ He's always been an *impetuous* young man. ▪ an *impetuous* decision
– **im•pet•u•os•i•ty** /ɪmˌpɛʧəˈwɑːsəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] – **im•pet•u•ous•ly** *adv* – **im•pet•u•ous•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

im•pe•tus /ˈɪmpətəs/ *noun*
1 : a force that causes something (such as a process or activity) to be done or to become more active [*noncount*] His discoveries have given *impetus* to further research. ▪ The move-

ment is now gaining/losing *impetus*. [=*momentum*] [*singular*] Her work provided the major *impetus* [=*stimulus*] behind the movement. — often + *for* ▪ The tragic accident became an *impetus for* changing the safety regulations. — sometimes followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ His discoveries have given researchers the *impetus to try* something new.

2 [*noncount*] *technical* : a force that causes an object to begin moving or to continue to move

im•pi•ety /ɪm'pajəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : lack of respect for God : the quality or state of being impious ▪ accusations of *impiety*

im•pinge /ɪm'pɪnʤ/ *verb* **-ping•es; -pinged; -ping•ing**

impinge on/upon [*phrasal verb*] ***impinge on/upon (something)*** *formal* : to affect (something) in a way that is unwanted : to have a bad effect on (something) ▪ His lawyers argued that the publicity will *impinge on* the defendant's right to a fair trial. ▪ Her work is *impinging on* [=*encroaching on, hindering*] her social life. ▪ The government wants to avoid *impinging upon* the affairs of private citizens.

im•pi•ous /'ɪmpijəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : feeling or showing a lack of respect for God : not pious ▪ *impious* books ▪ He was fearful of seeming *impious*.

imp•ish /'ɪmpɪʃ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having or showing a playful desire to cause trouble : playful and mischievous ▪ an *impish* grin/smile ▪ an *impish* face/look
– **imp•ish•ly** *adv* ▪ grinning *impishly* – **imp•ish•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ his youthful *impishness*

im•pla•ca•ble /ɪm'plækəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : opposed to someone or something in a very angry or determined way that cannot be changed ▪ He has an *implacable* hatred for his political opponents. ▪ an *implacable* [=*unyielding*] opponent
– **im•pla•ca•bly** /ɪm'plækəbli/ *adv* ▪ They are *implacably* opposed to his proposals.

[1]im•plant /ɪm'plænt/ *verb* **-plants; -plant•ed; -plant•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to put (something) in a specified place ▪ The police obtained permission to *implant* [=*plant*] a recording device in the suspect's home.; *especially, medical* : to place (something) in a person's body by means of surgery ▪ a hearing aid that is surgically *implanted* in the ear

2 : to cause (something) to become a part of the way a person thinks or feels ▪ She *implanted* a love of reading in her students. [=she taught her students to love reading]
– **im•plant•able** /ɪm'plæntəbəl/ *adj* ▪ *implantable* devices
– **im•plan•ta•tion** /ˌɪmˌplæn'teɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*noncount*] the *implantation* of a hearing aid [*count*] (*chiefly US*) a surgeon who has performed many *implantations*

[2]im•plant /'ɪmˌplænt/ *noun, pl* **-plants** [*count*] *medical* : something placed in a person's body by means of surgery ▪ breast *implants*

im•plau•si•ble /ɪm'plɑːzəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not believable or realistic : not plausible ▪ She's been making *implausible* claims. ▪ He gave an *implausible* excuse for showing up late for work. ▪ The novel has an *implausible* ending.
– **im•plau•si•bil•i•ty** /ɪmˌplɑːzə'bɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *implausibility* of the novel's ending – **im•plau•si•bly** /ɪm'plɑːzəbli/ *adv* ▪ an *implausibly* happy ending ▪ *Implausibly* (enough), the hero was saved at the last minute.

[1]im•ple•ment /'ɪmpləmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments** [*count*] : an object used to do work : TOOL ▪ farming *implements* ▪ stone *implements* used in prehistoric times ▪ a sharp-edged *implement* used to chop wood

> ***synonyms*** IMPLEMENT, TOOL, INSTRUMENT, and UTENSIL mean a device used for doing work. IMPLEMENT is a general word and may refer to anything that is needed to complete a task. ▪ gardening *implements* such as rakes and hoes TOOL is also a general word but may suggest a device that is designed for a specific job and that requires some skill to be used properly. ▪ carpenter's *tools* INSTRUMENT suggests a device that can be used for very precise work. ▪ surgical *instruments* UTENSIL suggests a fairly simple device used for jobs in a person's house. ▪ kitchen *utensils*

[2]im•ple•ment /'ɪmpləˌmɛnt/ *verb* **-ments; -ment•ed; -ment•ing** [+ *obj*] : to begin to do or use (something, such as a plan) : to make (something) active or effective ▪ The government *implemented* [=*carried out*] a series of reforms. ▪ I wondered how I might best *implement* his plan. ▪ Due to high costs, the program was never fully *implemented*.
– **im•ple•men•ta•tion** /ˌɪmpləmən'teɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ *implementation* of the plan

im•pli•cate /'ɪmpləˌkeɪt/ *verb* **-cates; -cat•ed; -cat•ing** [+ *obj*] : to show that someone or something is closely connected to or involved in something (such as a crime) ▪ The evidence *implicated* many government officials in the conspiracy. [=the evidence showed that many government officials were involved in the conspiracy] ▪ His business partner was *implicated* in the theft. ▪ Scientists have discovered a gene that is *implicated* [=*involved*] in the development of Alzheimer's disease.

im•pli•ca•tion /ˌɪmplə'keɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**

1 [*count*] : a possible future effect or result — usually plural ▪ We must consider the long-term *implications* of the new trade policies. [=we must consider the effect the policies may have in the future] ▪ The closing of the factory has economic *implications* for the entire community. [=the closing will affect the economy of the entire community] ▪ He needs to be aware of the political *implications* of his decision.

2 : something that is suggested without being said directly : something that is implied [*count*] I'm offended by his *implication* that women can't be good at mathematics. ▪ I resent that/your *implication*! [*noncount*] He condemned the court and, ***by implication***, the entire legal system.

3 [*noncount*] : the fact or state of being involved in or connected to something (such as a crime) : the fact or state of being implicated in something ▪ He was shocked by the *implication* of his partner in the theft.

im•plic•it /ɪm'plɪsət/ *adj*

1 : understood though not clearly or directly stated ▪ an *implicit* agreement/warning/promise ▪ Their plans are based on the *implicit* [=*implied*] assumption that the proposal will be accepted. ▪ There is a sense of moral duty *implicit* in her writings. — opposite EXPLICIT

2 : not affected by doubt : ABSOLUTE, COMPLETE ▪ I have *implicit* trust/confidence/faith in her honesty.
– **im•plic•it•ly** *adv* ▪ In his criticism of the court he *implicitly* condemns the entire legal system. ▪ I trust her *implicitly*. [=*completely*]

im•plode /ɪm'ploʊd/ *verb* **-plodes; -plod•ed; -plod•ing** [*no obj*] : to collapse inward in a very sudden and violent way ▪ an *imploding* star — often used figuratively ▪ He warns that the nation's economy is about to *implode* under the weight of its debt. — compare EXPLODE
– **im•plo•sion** /ɪm'ploʊʒən/ *noun, pl* **-sions** [*count, noncount*]

im•plore /ɪm'ploə/ *verb* **-plores; -plored; -plor•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal*

1 a : to make a very serious or emotional request to (someone) : BEG ▪ Don't go. I *implore* you. — usually followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ She *implored* her son not *to go*. ▪ He *implored* her *to think* of the children. **b** : to say (something) as a serious or emotional request ▪ "Think of the children!" he *implored*.

2 : to ask or beg for (something) in a very serious or emotional way ▪ He *implored* their help.
– **imploring** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ an *imploring* look ▪ an *imploring* request for help – **im•plor•ing•ly** *adv* ▪ "Don't go!" she said *imploringly*.

im•ply /ɪm'plaɪ/ *verb* **-plies; -plied; -ply•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to express (something) in an indirect way : to suggest (something) without saying or showing it plainly ▪ Your remark *implies* (to me) that you think I'm wrong. ▪ Early reports *implied* that the judge's death was not an accident. ▪ His words *implied* a threat. — compare INFER

2 : to include or involve (something) as a natural or necessary part or result ▪ War *implies* fighting and death.

im•po•lite /ˌɪmpə'laɪt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not polite : RUDE ▪ It's *impolite* to talk during the performance. ▪ He made some *impolite* comments about her appearance. ▪ an *impolite* child ▪ an *impolite* word
– **im•po•lite•ly** *adv* ▪ They felt they were being treated *impolitely*. – **im•po•lite•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

im•pon•der•a•ble /ɪm'pɑːndərəbəl/ *adj, formal* : not able to be measured or judged exactly ▪ the *imponderable* vastness of space
– **imponderable** *noun, pl* **-ables** [*count*] ▪ the *imponderables* of human nature [=the mysteries of human nature; the questions about human nature that cannot be fully answered or understood]

[1]im•port /ɪm'poət/ *verb* **-ports; -port•ed; -port•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to bring a product into a country to be sold ▪ a dealer who *imports* cars from Italy to the U.S. — opposite EXPORT

2 *computers* : to bring (something, such as data) into a file, system, etc., from another source ▪ software that makes it

simple to *import* digital photographs onto your hard drive – **imported** *adj* ▪ *imported* cars/coffee – **im•port•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ an *importer* of Italian cars

²im•port /ˈɪmˌpoɚt/ *noun, pl* **-ports**

1 a [*count*] : something that is imported : a product brought into a country to be sold there ▪ This car is an *import* from Italy. ▪ They sell luxury *imports* from around the world. **b** [*noncount*] : the act of importing something : IMPORTATION ▪ laws affecting the *import* of foreign goods ▪ an *import* tax

2 [*noncount*] *formal* : IMPORTANCE ▪ This is an issue of little *import* to voters. ▪ a matter of great *import*

3 [*singular*] *formal* : the meaning of something ▪ Researchers are still debating the *import* [=*meaning*] of the test results.

im•por•tance /ɪmˈpoɚtn̩s/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the quality or state of being important : value or significance ▪ The teacher lectured the students on the *importance* of mutual respect. ▪ a medical discovery of great/major *importance* [=a very important medical discovery] ▪ He exaggerated the *importance* of his role in the rescue mission. ▪ The negotiations have taken on added *importance* in the wake of the bomb attack. ▪ a matter of little/minor *importance* ▪ Nothing of *importance* [=nothing important] was decided.

im•por•tant /ɪmˈpoɚtn̩t/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]

1 : having serious meaning or worth ▪ She's an *important* [=*significant*] part of the team. ▪ Diet and exercise are *important* for health. : deserving or requiring serious attention ▪ an *important* problem ▪ In his editorial, he made several *important* points. ▪ It's *important* that you remember to send these forms on time. = It's *important* for you to remember to send these forms on time. ▪ Scientists have made an *important* discovery. ▪ Doing her job well is *important* to her. ▪ The new policy will help businesses and, more *important* [=*importantly*], it will create thousands of new jobs. [=it is more important that the new policy will create thousands of new jobs] ▪ critically/crucially/vitally *important*

2 : having power, authority, or influence ▪ He's one of the most *important* scholars in his field. ▪ an *important* artist

im•por•tant•ly /ɪmˈpoɚtn̩tli/ *adv*

1 [*more ~; most ~*] — used to say that something is important ▪ More *importantly*, [=it is more important that] the proposed law will have a harmful effect on funding for public schools.

2 a : in an important way ▪ Her research has contributed *importantly* to our understanding of the disease. **b** : in the manner of people who think that they are important : in an arrogant or pompous manner ▪ He strutted to and fro *importantly*, ordering everybody around.

im•por•ta•tion /ˌɪmˌpoɚˈteɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the act of importing products ▪ illegal *importation* of weapons

im•por•tu•nate /ɪmˈpoɚʧənət/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal*

1 : making repeated or annoying requests or demands ▪ an *importunate* salesman

2 : causing annoyance or trouble ▪ *importunate* demands – **im•por•tu•nate•ly** *adv* ▪ *importunately* demanding help

im•por•tune /ˌɪmpəˈtu:n, *Brit* ˌɪmpəˈtju:n/ *verb* **-tunes; -tuned; -tun•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to ask (someone) for something or to do something in a repeated or annoying way : BEG ▪ He stood on the street corner, *importuning* passersby for help/money. ▪ He *importuned* them to help.

im•pose /ɪmˈpoʊz/ *verb* **-pos•es; -posed; -pos•ing**

1 [+ *obj*] **a** : to cause (something, such as a tax, fine, rule, or punishment) to affect someone or something by using your authority ▪ The judge *imposed* a life sentence. — usually + *on* or *upon* ▪ The judge *imposed* a life sentence *on* the defendant. ▪ *impose* [=*levy*] a tax *on* liquor ▪ A curfew has been *imposed upon* the city's youth. **b** : to establish or create (something unwanted) in a forceful or harmful way ▪ I needed to break free from the limits *imposed* by my own fear of failure.

2 [+ *obj*] : to force someone to accept (something or yourself) — + *on* or *upon* ▪ He *imposed* his will *on* his subjects. [=he forced his subjects to do what he wanted them to do] ▪ He *imposes* his personal beliefs *on* his employees. ▪ I don't like having to ***impose myself on*** other people.

3 [*no obj*] : to ask for or expect more than is fair or reasonable ▪ She asked if I wanted a ride, but I declined. I didn't want to *impose*. [=I didn't want to cause trouble or inconvenience for her] — often + *on* or *upon* ▪ I didn't want to *impose on* her. = I didn't want to *impose on* her kindness. ▪ You shouldn't *impose on/upon* your friend's good nature.

im•pos•ing /ɪmˈpoʊzɪŋ/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : very large or impressive ▪ He's an *imposing* man with a powerful voice. ▪ an *imposing* building ▪ an *imposing* figure – **im•pos•ing•ly** *adv* ▪ an *imposingly* large building

im•po•si•tion /ˌɪmpəˈzɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**

1 [*count*] : a demand or request that is not reasonable or that causes trouble for someone ▪ Your kids can stay with me the night you're away—it's really not an *imposition*.

2 [*noncount*] : the act of establishing or creating something in an official way : the act of imposing something ▪ the *imposition* of a life sentence on the defendant ▪ the *imposition* of a tax on liquor

im•pos•si•bil•i•ty /ɪmˌpɑ:səˈbɪləti/ *noun, pl* **-ties**

1 [*count*] : something that is impossible : something that cannot be done or that cannot happen ▪ The blizzard made travel an *impossibility*. ▪ a logical/mathematical *impossibility*

2 [*noncount*] : the quality or state of being impossible ▪ the *impossibility* of knowing what the future will bring

im•pos•si•ble /ɪmˈpɑ:səbəl/ *adj*

1 a : unable to be done or to happen : not possible ▪ It's *impossible* to predict the future. ▪ The heavy rain made it *impossible* to see the road. ▪ It's logically/mathematically *impossible*. ▪ It's physically *impossible* for a child to lift that much at once. ▪ It's virtually/nearly/almost *impossible* to book a flight just before the holiday. ▪ I find it *impossible* to believe [=I cannot believe] that he's telling the truth. ▪ an *impossible* dream **b** : very difficult ▪ an *impossible* [=*hopeless*] situation ▪ These math problems are *impossible*!

2 [*more ~; most ~*] *of a person* : very difficult to deal with : very irritating or annoying ▪ You refuse to help and then criticize me for not doing it right? You're *impossible*! ▪ My boss is just an *impossible* woman.

the impossible : something that cannot be done or that is very difficult ▪ Expecting people to do a good job in such a short time is asking *the impossible*.

– **im•pos•si•bly** /ɪmˈpɑ:səbli/ *adv* ▪ The restaurants in this city are *impossibly* [=*extremely, ridiculously*] expensive. ▪ *impossibly* high standards

im•pos•tor *or* **im•pos•ter** /ɪmˈpɑ:stɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** *or* **-ters** [*count*] : a person who deceives others by pretending to be someone else ▪ He claimed he was an experienced pilot, but he turned out to be an *impostor*.

im•pos•ture /ɪmˈpɑ:stʃɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tures** *formal* : the act of deceiving others by pretending to be someone else [*noncount*] He was accused of *imposture*. [*count*] his elaborate *impostures*

im•po•tent /ˈɪmpətənt/ *adj*

1 [*more ~; most ~*] : lacking power or strength ▪ an *impotent* political party

2 *of a man* : unable to have sex : unable to get or keep an erection

– **im•po•tence** /ˈɪmpətəns/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *impotence* [=*weakness*] of the current regime ▪ sexual *impotence* – **im•po•tent•ly** *adv* ▪ We could only watch *impotently* [=*helplessly*] as the fire consumed our home.

im•pound /ɪmˈpaʊnd/ *verb* **-pounds; -pound•ed; -pound•ing** [+ *obj*] : to use legal powers to get and hold (something) ▪ The police *impounded* her car because it was illegally parked. ▪ *impound* evidence for a trial

im•pov•er•ish /ɪmˈpɑ:vərɪʃ/ *verb* **-ish•es; -ished; -ish•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to make (someone) poor ▪ The dictator enriched himself but *impoverished* his people.

2 : to use up the strength or richness of (something, such as land) ▪ Poor farming practices *impoverished* the soil.

– **impoverished** *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ the most *impoverished* areas [=the poorest areas] of the country ▪ acres of *impoverished* soil – **im•pov•er•ish•ment** /ɪmˈpɑ:vərɪʃmənt/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *impoverishment* of the people/soil

im•prac•ti•ca•ble /ɪmˈpræktɪkəbəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal* : difficult or impossible to do or use : not practicable ▪ an *impracticable* plan ▪ an *impracticable* solution

– **im•prac•ti•ca•bil•i•ty** /ɪmˌpræktɪkəˈbɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *impracticability* of his plan

im•prac•ti•cal /ɪmˈpræktɪkəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : not practical: such as **a** : not easy to do or use : not suitable for the situation ▪ Little sports cars are *impractical* for large families. ▪ an attractive but completely *impractical* pair of shoes [=shoes that look nice but are not comfortable for walking] ▪ an *impractical* plan/solution **b** *of a person* : not sensible : not able to deal with practical matters effectively ▪ He was a dreamy and *impractical* young man.

– **im•prac•ti•cal•i•ty** /ɪmˌpræktɪˈkæləti/ *noun, pl* **-ties** [*count*] They adopted the plan despite all its *impracticali-*

ties. [*noncount*] the *impracticality* of the plan – **im•prac•ti•cal•ly** /ɪmˈpræktɪkli/ *adv* ▪ an *impractically* large book

im•pre•ca•tion /ˌɪmprɪˈkeɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*] *formal* : an offensive word or phrase that people say when they are angry : CURSE ▪ He muttered *imprecations* under his breath.

im•pre•cise /ˌɪmprɪˈsaɪs/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : not clear or exact : not precise ▪ *imprecise* language/measurements ▪ an *imprecise* description ▪ It's an *imprecise* translation of the original sentence.

– **im•pre•cise•ly** *adv* ▪ The passage had been translated *imprecisely.* – **im•pre•ci•sion** /ˌɪmprɪˈsɪʒən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

im•preg•na•ble /ɪmˈprɛgnəbəl/ *adj*

1 : not able to be captured by attack : very strong ▪ an *impregnable* fortress ▪ *impregnable* defenses

2 : not likely to be weakened or changed ▪ an *impregnable* reputation ▪ Her arguments seemed *impregnable.*

im•preg•nate /ɪmˈprɛgˌneɪt/ *verb* **-nates; -nat•ed; -nat•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to cause (a material) to be filled or soaked with something ▪ a cake *impregnated* with brandy

2 *technical* : to make (a woman or a female animal) pregnant

– **im•preg•na•tion** /ɪmˌprɛgˈneɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

im•pre•sa•rio /ˌɪmprəˈsɑriˌoʊ/ *noun, pl* **-ri•os** [*count*] : a person who manages a performance (such as a concert or play)

im•press /ɪmˈprɛs/ *verb* **-press•es; -pressed; -press•ing**

1 : to cause (someone) to feel admiration or interest [+ *obj*] He's trying to *impress* her. [=he is trying to win her admiration; he wants her to like him] ▪ The candidate *impressed* us with his qualifications. = The candidate's qualifications *impressed* us. ▪ What really *impressed* me was their enthusiasm. = It really *impressed* me that they were so enthusiastic. — often used as *(be) impressed* ▪ We *were* (favorably/deeply/very) *impressed* by/with his credentials. ▪ I *am impressed* that you can play the violin so well. ▪ I *was* particularly/especially *impressed* by their enthusiasm. [*no obj*] She's bright, ambitious, and eager to *impress.*

2 [+ *obj*] : to put (something) in someone's mind : to produce a clear idea or image of (something) — + *on* or *upon* ▪ The speaker tried to *impress* the dangers of drugs *on* the children. = The speaker tried to *impress on* the children how dangerous drugs can be. [=tried to make the children understand very clearly how dangerous drugs can be]

3 [+ *obj*] : to produce (something, such as a picture) by pushing something against a surface ▪ a design *impressed* on the book's cover

im•pres•sion /ɪmˈprɛʃən/ *noun, pl* **-sions** [*count*]

1 : the effect or influence that something or someone has on a person's thoughts or feelings ▪ Her words made a strong *impression* (on us). ▪ The candidate made a favorable/positive/good/bad *impression.* ▪ What was your *impression* of the candidate? [=what did you think of the candidate?] ▪ My first *impression* of him was that he was a kind and thoughtful young man. ▪ First *impressions* are important but can be misleading. ▪ In her journal, she recorded her *impressions* of the city. ▪ Her kindness left a lasting *impression* on her students. ▪ I was trying to make an *impression.* = I was trying to make a good *impression.* ▪ He's trying to avoid (giving) the *impression* that he's insensitive. ▪ a fleeting *impression*

2 : an idea or belief that is usually not clear or certain ▪ It was my *impression* [=I thought] that admission was free. ▪ I'm sorry if I gave you the wrong *impression.* [=I'm sorry if I misled you] ▪ I got/had the distinct *impression* that they didn't mean to stay long. ▪ They gave (us) the *impression* that they didn't mean to stay long. ▪ an erroneous/false/mistaken *impression* ▪ I was ***under the impression*** [=I thought] that admission was free.

3 : an appearance or suggestion of something ▪ The garden is designed in tiers to give/create the *impression* of steps. [=the garden is designed so that it looks like steps] ▪ His lifestyle conveyed the *impression* of great wealth. [=his lifestyle led people to believe that he was very wealthy]

4 : something (such as a design or a footprint) made by pressing or stamping a surface ▪ The child used her hand to make an *impression* in the mud.

5 : an imitation of a famous person that is done for entertainment ▪ He does a funny *impression* [=*impersonation*] of Elvis Presley.

im•pres•sion•able /ɪmˈprɛʃənəbəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : easy to influence ▪ The teacher was accused of forcing his political beliefs on *impressionable* teenagers. ▪ The book had a profound effect on his *impressionable* young mind.

– **im•pres•sion•abil•i•ty** /ɪmˌprɛʃənəˈbɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *impressionability* of youth

im•pres•sion•ism *or* **Im•pres•sion•ism** /ɪmˈprɛʃəˌnɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a style of painting that began in France around 1870, that uses spots of color to show the effects of different kinds of light, and that attempts to capture the feeling of a scene rather than specific details

– **impressionist** *or* **Impressionist** *adj* ▪ an *Impressionist* painting

im•pres•sion•ist /ɪmˈprɛʃənɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*]

1 *or* ***Impressionist*** : a painter who practices impressionism

2 : an entertainer who does impressions (sense 5)

im•pres•sion•is•tic /ɪmˌprɛʃəˈnɪstɪk/ *adj*

1 [*more ~; most ~*] : involving general feelings or thoughts rather than specific knowledge or facts ▪ He wrote an *impressionistic* account of the battle scene.

2 *chiefly US* : of or relating to impressionism ▪ an *impressionistic* painting

– **im•pres•sion•is•ti•cal•ly** /ɪmˌprɛʃəˈnɪstɪkli/ *adv* ▪ He wrote vaguely and *impressionistically* about his life.

im•pres•sive /ɪmˈprɛsɪv/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : deserving attention, admiration, or respect : making a good impression ▪ He has an *impressive* vocabulary for a 10-year-old. ▪ Her first performance was very *impressive.* ▪ He has an *impressive* manner. ▪ a large and *impressive* [=*imposing*] building

– **im•pres•sive•ly** *adv* ▪ an *impressively* large vocabulary/building

im•pri•ma•tur /ˌɪmprəˈmɑːˌtʊɚ/ *noun, pl* **-turs** [*count*] *formal* : official approval ▪ He gave the book his *imprimatur.*

[1]im•print /ɪmˈprɪnt/ *verb* **-prints; -print•ed; -print•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to create a mark by pressing against a surface ▪ *imprint* [=*stamp*] a design on a sheet of paper ▪ wearing a T-shirt *imprinted* with the company logo

2 : to cause (something) to stay in your mind or memory ▪ The image of her beautiful face will always be *imprinted* on my mind. [=I will always remember her beautiful face] ▪ a picture *imprinted* in my memory

[2]im•print /ˈɪmˌprɪnt/ *noun, pl* **-prints** [*count*]

1 : a mark created by pressing against a surface : something imprinted or printed ▪ We saw an *imprint* of a bike tire on the dirt trail. ▪ a fossil *imprint* of a dinosaur's foot

2 : a strong effect or influence ▪ She was determined to ***put her imprint on*** the company. [=to use her ideas and influence to make the company better]

3 *technical* : a publisher's name on the title page of a book

im•pris•on /ɪmˈprɪzn̩/ *verb* **-ons; -oned; -on•ing** [+ *obj*] : to put (someone) in prison ▪ He was *imprisoned* for murder. ▪ He has threatened to *imprison* his political opponents. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ He has a brilliant mind *imprisoned* in an unhealthy body.

– **im•pris•on•ment** /ɪmˈprɪzn̩mənt/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ He was released after six months' *imprisonment.* ▪ sentenced to life *imprisonment*

im•prob•a•ble /ɪmˈprɑːbəbəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : not probable : not likely to be true or to happen : UNLIKELY ▪ There really isn't enough evidence to prove that he committed the crime, so it's (highly) *improbable* that he'll be convicted. ▪ The team made an *improbable* comeback. ▪ an *improbable* story

– **im•prob•a•bil•i•ty** /ɪmˌprɑːbəˈbɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] the *improbability* of their success [*count*] The story includes a number of absurd *improbabilities.* [=improbable events or situations] – **im•prob•a•bly** /ɪmˈprɑːbəbli/ *adv* ▪ an *improbably* gifted child

im•promp•tu /ɪmˈprɑːmptu, *Brit* ɪmˈprɒmptju/ *adj* : not prepared ahead of time : made or done without preparation ▪ Two of my friends came by **unexpectedly, and we had an** *impromptu* little party in my kitchen. ▪ He made an *impromptu* speech about honor and responsibility.

– **impromptu** *adv* ▪ speaking *impromptu*

im•prop•er /ɪmˈprɑːpɚ/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : not proper, right, or suitable: such as **a** : not correct ▪ The doctor gave him an *improper* diagnosis. ▪ *improper* grammar **b** : not following rules of acceptable behavior : legally or morally wrong ▪ They claim to have evidence of *improper* police conduct. ▪ *improper* use of public land **c** : not suitable for the situation : not appropriate ▪ This is an *improper* diet for a

growing teenager. ▪ *improper* dress/attire **d :** not polite ▪ It would be *improper* for me to ask such a favor of her. ▪ He made some *improper* remarks. ▪ *improper* behavior

– **im•prop•er•ly** *adv* ▪ He came to school *improperly* dressed. ▪ She pronounced the word *improperly*. ▪ behaving *improperly*

im•pro•pri•ety /ˌɪmprəˈprajəti/ *noun, pl* **-ties** *formal*

1 [*noncount*] **a :** rude or immoral behavior : improper behavior ▪ He has a reputation for *impropriety*. ▪ The judge excused herself from the case to avoid any appearance of *impropriety*. ▪ She was shocked by the young man's *impropriety*. **b :** a rude or improper quality ▪ She was shocked by the *impropriety* of his behavior/language.

2 [*count*] : a wrong or immoral act : an improper act ▪ He has been accused of financial/sexual *improprieties*.

im•prov /ˈɪmˌpraːv/ *noun* [*noncount*] *informal* : the act of performing without preparation : the act of improvising ▪ a comedian with a talent for *improv* [=*improvisation*]

im•prove /ɪmˈpruːv/ *verb* **-proves; -proved; -prov•ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to make (something) better ▪ This operation will greatly/dramatically/significantly *improve* her chances of survival. ▪ The advertising campaign has *improved* sales.

2 [*no obj*] : to become better ▪ Maybe we'll buy a house when our financial situation *improves*. ▪ Her writing has *improved* since the beginning of the school year. ▪ The company has been having steadily *improving* sales.

improve on/upon [*phrasal verb*] ***improve on/upon (something)*** : to do better than (something previously done) ▪ After months of study, I *improved on* my original score. ▪ It'll be hard to *improve upon* the success they had last year.

– **improved** *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ The campaign resulted in greatly *improved* sales. ▪ She was voted the most *improved* player on the team.

im•prove•ment /ɪmˈpruːvmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments**

1 [*noncount*] : the act of improving something : the act or process of making something better ▪ Doctors were amazed by the sudden *improvement* in her medical condition. ▪ His cooking needs *improvement*. = There's still ***room for improvement*** in his cooking.

2 [*count*] **a :** the quality of being better than before ▪ I've noticed a significant *improvement* in your work since the spring. **b :** an addition or change that makes something better or more valuable ▪ The editor made some *improvements* to/in the article before it was printed. ▪ They spent the money on new kitchen cabinets and other ***home improvements***. ✧ An ***improvement on*** or (*chiefly US*) ***over*** something is a better version of it or a better way of doing it. ▪ The food isn't fancy, but it's certainly an *improvement over* what we're served at school.

im•prov•i•dent /ɪmˈprɑːvədənt/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal* : not providing or saving for the future : not wise or sensible regarding money ▪ Her *improvident* habits left her with no retirement savings. ▪ an *improvident* [=*irresponsible, unwise*] use of public money

– **im•prov•i•dence** /ɪmˈprɑːvədəns/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ financial *improvidence*

im•pro•vise /ˈɪmprəˌvaɪz/ *verb* **-vis•es; -vised; -vis•ing**

1 : to speak or perform without preparation [*no obj*] If you forget any of your lines, try to *improvise*. ▪ Good jazz musicians know how to *improvise*. [+ *obj*] He had to *improvise* his opening speech when he forgot his notes. ▪ The trumpet player performed an *improvised* solo.

2 [+ *obj*] : to make or create (something) by using whatever is available ▪ I wasn't expecting guests, so I had to *improvise* a meal with what I had in my refrigerator.

– **im•pro•vi•sa•tion** /ɪmˌprɑːvəˈzeɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*noncount*] an actor who is good at *improvisation* [*count*] His performance featured several clever *improvisations*.

– **im•pro•vi•sa•tion•al** /ɪmˌprɑːvəˈzeɪʃənl̩/ *also* **im•pro•vi•sa•to•ry** /ɪˌmprəˈvaɪzəˌtori, *Brit* ɪˌmprəˈvaɪzətri/ *adj* ▪ an *improvisational* performance ▪ *improvisational* theater

– **im•pro•vis•er** *also chiefly US* **im•pro•vis•or** /ˈɪmprəˌvaɪzɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** *also* **-ors** [*count*] ▪ jazz *improvisers*

im•pru•dent /ɪmˈpruːdn̩t/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal* : not wise or sensible : not prudent ▪ She made some *imprudent* [=*foolish, unwise*] investments that she would later regret. ▪ It's politically *imprudent* to stir up such controversy during an election year.

– **im•pru•dence** /ɪmˈpruːdn̩s/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ financial *imprudence* – **im•pru•dent•ly** *adv* ▪ She invested *imprudently*.

im•pu•dent /ˈɪmpjədənt/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal* : failing to show proper respect and courtesy : very rude ▪ The boy was punished for his *impudent* behavior/attitude. ▪ an *impudent* [=*insolent, disrespectful*] soldier

– **im•pu•dence** /ˈɪmpjədəns/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ The boy was punished for his *impudence*. – **im•pu•dent•ly** *adv* ▪ He behaved *impudently*.

im•pugn /ɪmˈpjuːn/ *verb* **-pugns; -pugned; -pugn•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to criticize (a person's character, intentions, etc.) by suggesting that someone is not honest and should not to be trusted ▪ He *impugned* his rival's character. ▪ Her motives have been scrutinized and *impugned*.

im•pulse /ˈɪmˌpʌls/ *noun, pl* **-puls•es** [*count*]

1 : a sudden strong desire to do something ▪ He has to learn to control his *impulses*. ▪ a natural/creative/sudden *impulse* ▪ a generous *impulse* — often followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ He had to resist the *impulse* [=*urge*] *to shout*. ▪ My first/initial *impulse* was *to say* no. ✧ To do something ***on (an) impulse*** or ***on a sudden impulse*** is to do it suddenly and without thinking about it first. ▪ He bought a new camera *on impulse*. ▪ She quit her job *on a sudden impulse*. An ***impulse buy/purchase*** is something that is bought on impulse and that usually is not really needed. ▪ The camera was an *impulse buy*. ***Impulse buying*** is the act or practice of buying things on impulse. ▪ Shopping with a credit card can lead to *impulse buying*.

2 *technical* : a small amount of energy that moves from one area to another ▪ an electrical *impulse* ▪ a nerve *impulse* [=a wave of electrical energy that is carried through the nerves to the brain]

im•pul•sive /ɪmˈpʌlsɪv/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]

1 : doing things or tending to do things suddenly and without careful thought : acting or tending to act on impulse ▪ She's *impulsive* and often does things that she later regrets.

2 : done suddenly and without planning : resulting from a sudden impulse ▪ He needs to learn to control his *impulsive* behavior. ▪ She made an *impulsive* decision to quit her job.

– **im•pul•sive•ly** *adv* ▪ She *impulsively* decided to quit her job. ▪ acting *impulsively* – **im•pul•sive•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ Her *impulsiveness* gets her in trouble. ▪ the *impulsiveness* of her decision

im•pu•ni•ty /ɪmˈpjuːnəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] : freedom from punishment, harm, or loss — usually used in the phrase ***with impunity*** ▪ They broke the law *with* (complete/total) *impunity*. [=without fear of punishment; very freely and openly] ▪ The rioters set fires and looted *with impunity*.

im•pure /ɪmˈpjuɚ/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : not pure: such as **a :** DIRTY, UNCLEAN ▪ *impure* water **b :** mixed with something else that is usually not as good ▪ an *impure* chemical ▪ selling *impure* drugs **c :** sexual in a way that is considered morally wrong ▪ *impure* thoughts

im•pu•ri•ty /ɪmˈpjurəti/ *noun, pl* **-ties**

1 [*noncount*] : the quality or state of being impure ▪ the *impurity* of the water ▪ moral *impurity*

2 [*count*] : an unwanted substance that is found in something else and that prevents it from being pure ▪ The syrup is strained to remove *impurities*. ▪ The water is free of *impurities*.

im•pute /ɪmˈpjuːt/ *verb* **-putes; -put•ed; -put•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to say or suggest that someone or something has or is guilty of (something) ▪ They're trying to *impute* selfish motives *to* my actions. [=they're trying to say that my actions were motivated by selfishness] ▪ He insists that he is not responsible for all the crimes that have been *imputed to* him. [=the crimes that he has been blamed for]

– **im•pu•ta•tion** /ˌɪmpjəˈteɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*noncount*] the *imputation* of blame [*count*] I deny all your *imputations* of blame.

[1]in /ˈɪn, ən/ *prep*

1 — used to indicate location or position within something ▪ We went for a swim *in* the lake. ▪ They have a house *in* the country. ▪ Albuquerque is *in* New Mexico. ▪ There wasn't a cloud *in* the sky. ▪ I like to read *in* bed. [=while sitting or lying on my bed] ▪ He was wounded *in* the leg. ▪ We had to stand *in* line for tickets. ▪ Why don't you look it up *in* the dictionary? ▪ There's something *in* my eye. [=between my eyelid and my eyeball] ▪ There was fear *in* their eyes. [=I could tell they were afraid when I looked at their eyes] ▪ I held her *in* my arms. ▪ He saw his reflection *in* the mirror.

2 : to the inside of (a room, container, etc.) ▪ She went *in* [=*into*] the house. ▪ Don't come *in* here with those muddy feet! ▪ I threw it *in* [=*into*] the garbage.

3 a — used to indicate that someone or something belongs

to or is included as part of something ▪ She used to play *in* [=as a member of] a band. ▪ There are 12 *in* a dozen. [=a dozen is equal to 12] **b** — used to indicate the existence of something or someone within a story, movie, etc. ▪ a character *in* a story ▪ a scene *in* a movie ▪ He saw it *in* a dream.

4 a : during (a period of time, a season, etc.) ▪ It happened *in* the 1930s. ▪ She likes to travel *in* [=*during*] the summer. ▪ Call us sometime *in* [=*during*] the morning/afternoon/evening. ▪ They plan to open *in* September. ▪ We haven't seen them *in* [=*for*] ages! ▪ Back *in* those days, we didn't have computers. ▪ an important moment *in* history ▪ Never *in* my life have I heard such a thing! ▪ I lost track of them *in* [=*during*] all the commotion/confusion. **b :** at the end of (a period of time) ▪ I'll be there *in* a minute. ▪ The movie is coming out *in* a few months. ▪ He got his degree *in* only three years. **c** — used to indicate an approximate age or number ▪ a woman *in* her thirties [=a woman who is between 30 and 39 years old] ▪ Our members number *in* the thousands. [=more than 2,000]

5 a — used to indicate the method, materials, or form of something ▪ a note written *in* pencil [=using a pencil] ▪ a note written *in* French ▪ a symphony *in* (the key of) C ▪ The book is bound *in* leather. ▪ They were covered *in* mud from head to toe. ▪ She gave us 50 dollars *in* cash. ▪ The measurements are listed *in* both inches and centimeters. ▪ The shirts come *in* three sizes. **b** — used to indicate the color of something ▪ I decorated the room *in* blues and grays. [=using different shades of blue and gray]

6 a — used to indicate the state or condition of someone or something ▪ We'll be *in* trouble if we can't get the brakes to work! [=we will experience a situation that is difficult, dangerous, etc.] ▪ She was *in* and out of trouble for many years. ▪ young people *in* love [=experiencing romantic love] ▪ Are you *in* much pain? ▪ I just stood there gaping *in* amazement. ▪ They're not *in* any danger. **b :** to a specified state, condition, or form ▪ They were always getting *in* [=*into*] trouble. ▪ The vase broke *in* [=*into*] pieces. ▪ They divided the money *in* [=*into*] thirds.

7 — used to indicate how people or things are arranged ▪ They stood *in* a circle. ▪ The chairs were placed *in* a row.

8 — used to indicate the conditions that are around someone or something ▪ I found her sitting *in* the dark. = I found her sitting *in* darkness. ▪ Don't just stand there *in* the rain!

9 : while or as a result of (doing something) ▪ *In* trying to please everyone, I ended up pleasing no one. ▪ Many mistakes were made *in* planning the project.

10 — used to indicate the manner or purpose of something ▪ "No way!" she said *in* reply. ▪ The remark was made *in* jest. ▪ They sure left *in* a hurry! ▪ We held a banquet *in* his honor. [=to honor him] ▪ They went *in* search of lost treasure. [=to search for lost treasure] ▪ She moved to the city *in* hopes of finding a better job. [=with the hope that she would find a better job] ▪ They increased the penalties *in* an attempt to discourage lawbreakers.

11 — used to make a statement or description more limited or specific in meaning ▪ They are slow *in* their movements. [=their movements are slow] ▪ The two are alike *in* some ways/respects. [=they have some similarities] ▪ It measures two feet *in* length. [=it is two feet long] ▪ The idea works *in* theory, but not *in* practice. ▪ *In* a way, it makes sense. [=it makes sense if you consider a particular fact, idea, etc.]

12 — used to indicate the person who is being described ▪ We've lost a valuable employee *in* Mike. ▪ *In* her, you have a true friend.

13 — used to indicate the object of a belief, opinion, or feeling ▪ Have a little faith *in* them! ▪ Do you believe *in* ghosts? [=do you think ghosts are real?] ▪ I really don't know what she sees *in* him. [=I don't know why she likes/loves him] ▪ I have no interest *in* sports. [=sports do not interest me]

14 — used to indicate a job or area of activity ▪ She has a job *in* marketing. ▪ I hear he's *in* advertising. [=he has a job that involves advertising] ▪ She's struggling *in* math.

15 — used to indicate the existence of something as a part of someone's character ▪ He has no pity *in* him. ▪ I tried to be tough with them, but I just ***didn't have it in me***. [=I wasn't able to be tough with them]

16 : wearing (something) as clothes ▪ He showed up *in* his best suit. ▪ the boy *in* the red jacket ▪ a lady *in* black [=a lady wearing black clothes]

17 — used to describe how common something is by comparing a smaller number to a larger number ▪ This condition affects one *in* five [=1 in 5; one out of every five] Americans.

²in /ˈɪn/ *adv*

1 : to or toward the inside of something (such as a building) ▪ She went *in* and closed the door. ▪ I lost my keys and now I can't get *in*. ▪ Please come *in*! ▪ The burglars broke *in* through the kitchen window. ▪ The pool is deep. Be careful not to fall *in*. ▪ Is everyone *in* [=*inside*]? Then we can start. ▪ The shot went *in*. [=into the goal]

2 a : to or toward a place ▪ They flew *in* yesterday. ▪ The boss called us *in* for a conference. ▪ The fog was closing *in* fast. ▪ The tide is coming *in*. [=towards shore] ▪ Get your orders *in* early! **b :** at the place where someone or something arrives after traveling ▪ Is the train *in* yet? ▪ We expect to get *in* around noon. [=we expect to arrive around noon]

3 : at or inside a home, office, etc. ▪ The doctor is *in*. [=the doctor is in his/her office and is available to see patients] ▪ Are your parents *in*? [=are your parents at home?]

4 : at or to a location that is near to something or that seems near to something ▪ The coach told them to play closer *in*. [=nearer to the area where the most activity is happening or is expected to happen] ▪ Pull the car further *in*. [=closer to the curb, house, etc.]

5 a : in a way that will blend into or join with something ▪ Gradually mix *in* the flour. **b :** to or at a proper or indicated place ▪ I can't seem to fit this piece *in*. ▪ Please fill *in* your name and address on the application. **c :** in a way that will agree or be in harmony ▪ Do you think he'll fit *in* with the other kids?

6 : in a way that surrounds something or someone or prevents something or someone from leaving ▪ They fenced *in* the property. = They fenced the property *in*. [=they put a fence around the property] ▪ After the blizzard we were snowed *in* for a week. [=we could not leave our home because of the snow] — sometimes used in combination ▪ a house with a fenced-*in* yard

7 : in the position of someone who is involved or participating in something ▪ Count me *in*. [=include me in your plans] ▪ "Does anyone want to go to a movie tonight?" "Sure, I'm *in*." [=I want to go] ▪ She was ***in at the beginning/start***, when the company began.

8 : in or into a position or job ▪ They voted him *in* [=they elected him] by an overwhelming margin.

9 : in a friendly relationship *with* someone ▪ She was ***in with*** the city's most powerful people. [=she had friendly relationships with the city's most powerful people]; *also* **:** in a specified sort of relationship ▪ He got *in* good/bad *with* the boss. [=he was liked/disliked by the boss]

10 : present or in your possession and available for use ▪ Are all the votes/results *in*?

11 *sports* **:** inside the area where players or the ball must stay in sports like tennis, basketball, and American football **:** not out of bounds ▪ Her serve was just barely *in*.

all in *informal* **:** very tired ▪ I'm *all in*. I'm going to bed.

in for *informal* **:** sure to experience (something) ▪ Boy, is she *in for* a surprise! — see also *have it in for* at HAVE

in for it see ¹FOR

in on ✧ If you are *in on* something you have knowledge about it or are involved in it. ▪ They were all *in on* the scheme. ▪ The characters are convinced that they're on another planet, but the audience is *in on* the joke. [=the audience knows they are not on another planet] ▪ I let them *in on* our little secret. [=I told them our secret]

in that — used to introduce a statement that explains or gives more specific information about what you have just said ▪ The book is good, *in that* it's well written, but I didn't actually like reading it.

³in /ˈɪn/ *adj*

1 : popular or fashionable ▪ the *in* thing to do ▪ the *in* place to go ▪ Tall boots are *in* [=*in style*] this year.

2 : aware of and strongly influenced by what is new and fashionable ▪ It's what the *in* crowd is wearing this season. — see also IN-GROUP, IN-JOKE

⁴in /ˈɪn/ *noun, pl* **ins** [*count*] *chiefly US, informal* **:** a way of becoming involved in something or of influencing someone ▪ When you're trying to get started in show business, it helps to have an *in*. ▪ They must have an *in* with the boss. — see also INS AND OUTS

in. *abbr* inch, inches — see also INS.

IN *abbr* Indiana

in- *or* **il-** *or* **im-** *or* **ir-** *prefix* **:** not ▪ *in*conclusive ▪ *in*accurate ▪ *il*logical ▪ *im*moral ▪ *im*practical ▪ *ir*rational

in•abil•i•ty /ˌɪnəˈbɪləti/ *noun* **:** the condition of not being able to do something **:** lack of ability [*singular*] She has shown an *inability* to concentrate. [*noncount*] the *inability* of the government to cope with the problem

in ab·sen·tia /ˌɪnæbˈsɛnʃijə/ *adv, formal* : without being present ▪ They presented the award to him *in absentia*. [=they presented the award to him although he was not there to receive it himself] ▪ She was convicted of the crime *in absentia*.

in·ac·ces·si·ble /ˌɪnɪkˈsɛsəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : difficult or impossible to reach, approach, or understand : not accessible ▪ The area is *inaccessible* by road. ▪ an *inaccessible* goal ▪ His prose is *inaccessible* to many readers.
– **in·ac·ces·si·bil·i·ty** /ˌɪnɪkˌsɛsəˈbɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ The town's *inaccessibility* discourages tourism. – **inaccessibly** *adv*

in·ac·cu·ra·cy /ɪnˈækjərəsi/ *noun, pl* **-cies**
1 [*noncount*] : lack of correctness or exactness : lack of accuracy ▪ I pointed out the *inaccuracy* of his statement.
2 [*count*] : a statement that is not correct : an error or mistake ▪ The text is filled with *inaccuracies*.

in·ac·cu·rate /ɪnˈækjərət/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not correct or exact : having a mistake or error : not accurate ▪ The book makes several *inaccurate* [=*false, incorrect*] claims. ▪ an *inaccurate* quotation ▪ Our research isn't complete, so these figures are somewhat *inaccurate*. [=*inexact, approximate*]
– **in·ac·cu·rate·ly** *adv* ▪ She claims that the newspaper quoted her *inaccurately*.

in·ac·tion /ɪnˈækʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] : failure to do something that should be done : lack of action or activity ▪ The protesters criticized the administration's *inaction* on environmental issues. ▪ We must consider the consequences of continued *inaction*.

in·ac·tive /ɪnˈæktɪv/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not active: such as **a** : not doing things that require physical movement and energy : not exercising ▪ *Inactive* people suffer higher rates of heart disease. **b** : not involved in the activities of a group or organization ▪ an *inactive* club member **c** : no longer being used ▪ an *inactive* mine : not currently being used ▪ the bank's *inactive* accounts **d** *of a volcano* : not capable of erupting **e** : not having a chemical effect ▪ *inactive* ingredients
– **in·ac·tive·ly** *adv* ▪ *inactively* traded stocks

in·ac·tiv·i·ty /ɪnˌækˈtɪvəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the state of not acting or moving : lack of activity ▪ His job involved long periods of (physical) *inactivity*.

in·ad·e·quate /ɪnˈædɪkwət/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not enough or not good enough : not adequate ▪ These supplies are *inadequate* to meet our needs. ▪ We were given very/woefully/wholly *inadequate* information. ▪ an *inadequate* leader ▪ I felt *inadequate* to the task. ▪ Her brother's success and popularity always made her feel *inadequate*.
– **in·ad·e·qua·cy** /ɪnˈædɪkwəsi/ *noun, pl* **-cies** [*noncount*] feelings of *inadequacy* [*count*] I'm fully aware of my own *inadequacies* as a parent. – **in·ad·e·quate·ly** *adv* ▪ He was *inadequately* prepared for adulthood.

in·ad·mis·si·ble /ˌɪnədˈmɪsəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not able to be allowed or considered in a legal case : not admissible ▪ The evidence was *inadmissible* in court.
– **in·ad·mis·si·bil·i·ty** /ˌɪnədˌmɪsəˈbɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*]

in·ad·ver·tent /ˌɪnədˈvɚtənt/ *adj* : not intended or planned : ACCIDENTAL ▪ an *inadvertent* error/omission
– **in·ad·ver·tence** /ˌɪnədˈvɚtəns/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ mistakes made by/through *inadvertence* – **in·ad·ver·tent·ly** *adv* ▪ I *inadvertently* [=*accidentally, mistakenly*] dialed the wrong number.

in·ad·vis·able /ˌɪnədˈvaɪzəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not wise, sensible, or reasonable : not advisable ▪ The procedure is *inadvisable* because of the risks involved. ▪ It would be highly/very *inadvisable* to attempt to do this ourselves.
– **in·ad·vis·abil·i·ty** /ˌɪnədˌvaɪzəˈbɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*]

in·alien·able /ˌɪnˈeɪljənəbəl/ *adj, formal* : impossible to take away or give up ▪ *inalienable* rights

in·amo·ra·ta /ɪˌnæməˈrɑːtə/ *noun, pl* **-tas** [*count*] *literary* : the woman that a man loves ▪ a story about a powerful politician and his *inamorata*

inane /ɪˈneɪn/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : very silly or stupid ▪ I quickly tired of their *inane* comments/questions/chatter. ▪ The film's plot is *inane* and full of clichés.
– **inane·ly** *adv* ▪ an *inanely* simplistic idea ▪ She just sat there grinning *inanely* at the TV. – **inan·i·ty** /ɪˈnænəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] the *inanity* of their questions [*count*] the tiresome *inanities* [=inane comments or actions] of the political world

in·an·i·mate /ɪnˈænəmət/ *adj* : not living : not capable of life ▪ Stones are *inanimate*. ▪ an *inanimate* object — opposite [1]ANIMATE

in·ap·pli·ca·ble /ɪnˈæplɪkəbəl, ˌɪnəˈplɪkəbəl/ *adj, formal* : not able to be used in a particular situation : not applicable or relevant ▪ The rules are *inapplicable* [=*irrelevant*] in this instance.

in·ap·pro·pri·ate /ˌɪnəˈproʊprijət/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not right or suited for some purpose or situation : not appropriate or suitable ▪ We won't tolerate such *inappropriate* behavior/conduct/language. ▪ Her informal manner seemed wholly/entirely *inappropriate* to/for the occasion. ▪ The movie's subject matter is *inappropriate* for small children (to see). = It's *inappropriate* for small children to see the movie. = It's *inappropriate* that small children should see the movie.
– **in·ap·pro·pri·ate·ly** *adv* ▪ They were dressed *inappropriately* for such a formal affair. – **in·ap·pro·pri·ate·ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ We were shocked by the *inappropriateness* of his comments.

in·apt /ɪnˈæpt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *somewhat formal* : not appropriate or suitable : not apt ▪ an *inapt* [=*inappropriate*] analogy/metaphor/comparison ▪ His description of the experience as "weird" isn't altogether *inapt*. [=it is somewhat accurate] — compare INEPT
– **in·apt·ly** *adv* ▪ We had lunch at the *inaptly* named "Good Eats Diner." – **in·apt·ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

in·ar·gu·able /ɪnˈɑɚgjəwəbəl/ *adj, chiefly US, somewhat formal* : certain or clearly true : not open to argument, doubt, or question ▪ It's an *inarguable* [=*indisputable, unquestionable*] fact.
– **in·ar·gu·ably** /ɪnˈɑɚgjəwəbli/ *adv* ▪ She is *inarguably* [=*unquestionably, indisputably*] the world's foremost expert on the subject.

in·ar·tic·u·late /ɪnˌɑɚˈtɪkjələt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 a : not able to express ideas clearly and effectively in speech or writing : not articulate ▪ He's smart, but somewhat *inarticulate*. ▪ an *inarticulate* drunk **b** : not able to speak ▪ I was almost *inarticulate* with rage.
2 a : not expressed clearly or easily understood ▪ an *inarticulate* explanation ▪ an *inarticulate* reply **b** : not understandable as spoken words ▪ an *inarticulate* cry ▪ *inarticulate* murmurs **c** : not able to be expressed ▪ *inarticulate* longings
– **in·ar·tic·u·late·ly** *adv* ▪ Her only response was to mumble *inarticulately*. – **in·ar·tic·u·late·ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

in·as·much as /ˌɪnəzˈmʌʧəz/ *conj, formal* — used to introduce a statement that explains, limits, or gives more specific information about what you have just said ▪ They were lucky *inasmuch as* no one was hurt in the fire. ▪ They abide by the rules only *inasmuch as* [=*insofar as*] it suits them.

in·at·ten·tion /ˌɪnəˈtɛnʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] : failure to carefully think about, listen to, or watch someone or something : lack of attention ▪ Many traffic accidents are the result of driver *inattention*. ▪ They lost several potential clients through their *inattention* to detail.
– **in·at·ten·tive** /ˌɪnəˈtɛntɪv/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ *inattentive* drivers ▪ *inattentive* behavior – **in·at·ten·tive·ly** *adv* ▪ I was listening *inattentively* and missed what she said. – **in·at·ten·tive·ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ mistakes due to *inattentiveness* [=*inattention*]

in·au·di·ble /ɪnˈɑːdəbəl/ *adj* : impossible to hear : not audible ▪ She spoke so quietly that she was almost *inaudible*. ▪ The sound is *inaudible* to humans but can be heard by dogs.
– **in·au·di·bil·i·ty** /ɪnˌɑːdəˈbɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] – **in·au·di·bly** /ɪnˈɑːdəbli/ *adv* ▪ He whispered *inaudibly* to the person beside him.

in·au·gu·ral /ɪnˈɑːgjərəl/ *adj, always used before a noun*
1 : happening as part of an official ceremony or celebration when someone (such as a newly elected official) begins an important job : happening as part of an inauguration ▪ the President's *inaugural* address ▪ They attended the *inaugural* ball.
2 : happening as the first one in a series of similar events ▪ The new train will make its *inaugural* [=*first*] run next week.
– **inaugural** *noun, pl* **-rals** [*count*] *chiefly US* ▪ President Franklin D. Roosevelt's first *inaugural* [=*inauguration*]

in·au·gu·rate /ɪnˈɑːgjəˌreɪt/ *verb* **-rates**; **-rat·ed**; **-rat·ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to introduce (someone, such as a newly elected official) into a job or position with a formal ceremony ▪ He was *inaugurated* (as President) on the 20th of January.
2 : to celebrate the fact that something (such as a new hospital or school) is officially ready to be used ▪ They *inaugurated* the new headquarters with a brief ceremony.
3 a : to be the beginning of (something, such as a period of

time) ▪ This event *inaugurated* [=*introduced*] a new era in our history. **b :** to begin to use or have (something) for the first time ▪ The airline will *inaugurate* [=*introduce*] five new routes this summer.

– **in•au•gu•ra•tion** /ɪnˌɑːgjəˈreɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*] presidential *inaugurations* ▪ We attended the *inauguration* of the new museum. [=the event celebrating the fact that the new museum is officially ready to be used] [*noncount*] a discovery that led to (the) *inauguration* of a new era in our history

in•aus•pi•cious /ˌɪnˌɑːˈspɪʃəs/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal* : not showing or suggesting that future success is likely : not auspicious ▪ The team got off to an *inauspicious* [=*unpromising*] start/beginning with a series of early losses. ▪ Despite its *inauspicious* beginnings, the company eventually became very profitable.

– **in•aus•pi•cious•ly** *adv* ▪ His movie career started *inauspiciously* with several box-office flops.

in•au•then•tic /ˌɪnˌɑːˈθɛntɪk/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : not real, accurate, or sincere : not authentic ▪ Their Mexican dishes are tasty but somewhat *inauthentic*. [=they are not quite like real Mexican food]

– **in•au•then•tic•ity** /ɪnˌɑːˌθɛnˈtɪsəti/ *noun* [*noncount*]

in–be•tween /ˌɪnbɪˈtwiːn/ *noun, pl* **-tweens** [*count*] : a state or position that is in the middle between two other things : a middle position ▪ The switch is either on or off; there's no *in-between*.

– **in–between** *adj* ▪ available in small, large, and *in-between* sizes

in•board /ˈɪnˌboəd/ *adj, technical* : located inside and towards the center of a boat, car, or airplane ▪ an *inboard* engine/motor — compare OUTBOARD

– **inboard** *adv* ▪ The wheels are *inboard* of the engines.

in•born /ˈɪnˈboən/ *adj* : existing from the time someone is born : natural or instinctive ▪ Humans have the *inborn* [=*innate*] ability to adapt. ▪ She has an *inborn* talent for music. ▪ That kind of knowledge is acquired, not *inborn*.

in•bound /ˈɪnˌbaʊnd/ *adj* : traveling into a place : inward bound ▪ *inbound* flights [=flights coming to an airport] ▪ The bridge is closed to *inbound* traffic. [=traffic coming into a city or town] — opposite OUTBOUND

in•bounds pass /ˈɪnˈbaʊndz-/ *noun, pl* ~ **passes** [*count*] *basketball* : a pass to start play from a player who is standing out of bounds to a player who is on the court

in–box /ˈɪnˌbɑːks/ *noun, pl* **-box•es** [*count*]

1 *US* : a box or other container on a desk in which letters, notes, etc., that are sent to the desk are placed — called also (*Brit*) *in tray*; see picture at OFFICE; compare OUT-BOX

2 *computers* : a computer folder that holds new e-mail messages ▪ There are five new messages in your *in-box*.

in•bred /ˈɪnˈbrɛd/ *adj*

1 : existing as a basic part of a person's nature or character ▪ They have an *inbred* love of freedom.

2 : born from or produced by animals, plants, or people that are closely related : produced by inbreeding ▪ *inbred* mice

in•breed•ing /ˈɪnˈbriːdɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a process by which animals, plants, or people are born from or produced by closely related parents ▪ genetic defects caused by *inbreeding*

in•built /ˈɪnˈbɪlt/ *adj, Brit* : BUILT-IN ▪ It comes with several *inbuilt* features. ▪ She has an *inbuilt* resistance to change.

Inc. *abbr* incorporated ▪ Merriam-Webster *Inc*.

in•cal•cu•la•ble /ɪnˈkælkjələbəl/ *adj, formal* : not able to be calculated: such as **a :** very large or great ▪ The extent of the damage is *incalculable*. ▪ The collection is of *incalculable* value to historians. **b :** not able to be predicted ▪ The future consequences of their decision are *incalculable*.

– **in•cal•cu•la•bil•i•ty** /ɪnˌkælkjələˈbɪlətiː/ *noun* [*noncount*]

– **in•cal•cu•la•bly** /ɪnˈkælkjələbliː/ *adv* ▪ an *incalculably* large amount of damage

in•can•des•cent /ˌɪnkənˈdɛsn̩t/ *adj*

1 a : white or glowing because of great heat ▪ *incandescent* gas **b :** producing bright light when heated ▪ an ***incandescent light bulb*** [=a light bulb whose light is produced by the glow of a wire heated by an electric current]

2 a : very impressive, successful, or intelligent ▪ a play full of *incandescent* [=*brilliant*] performances **b :** happy and lively ▪ children with *incandescent* [=*bright*] smiles

3 *Brit* : feeling or showing great anger ▪ She was ***incandescent with rage*** [=she was very angry]

– **in•can•des•cence** /ˌɪnkənˈdɛsn̩s/ *noun* [*noncount*]

in•can•ta•tion /ˌɪnˌkænˈteɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions :** a series of words used to make something magic happen [*count*] ritual prayers and *incantations* [*noncount*] trying to produce a miracle by *incantation*

in•ca•pa•ble /ɪnˈkeɪpəbəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : not able to do something : not capable ▪ an *incapable* assistant — usually + *of* ▪ He seemed *incapable of* understanding the seriousness of the situation. ▪ Some birds are physically *incapable of* flight. ▪ She's completely *incapable of* telling a lie.

– **in•ca•pa•bil•i•ty** /ɪnˌkeɪpəˈbɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*]

in•ca•pac•i•tate /ˌɪnkəˈpæsəˌteɪt/ *verb* **-tates**; **-tat•ed**; **-tat•ing** [+ *obj*] : to make (someone or something) unable to work, move, or function in the usual way : DISABLE ▪ The class teaches you how to *incapacitate* an attacker. ▪ The stroke left her completely *incapacitated*. ▪ He was *incapacitated* by the pain. ▪ a computer system *incapacitated* by software problems

– **incapacitating** *adj* ▪ an *incapacitating* illness/injury – **in•ca•pac•i•ta•tion** /ˌɪnkəˌpæsəˈteɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ physical/mental *incapacitation*

in•ca•pac•i•ty /ˌɪnkəˈpæsəti/ *noun, pl* **-ties** *formal* : a lack or loss of the ability to do something in the usual or desired way [*noncount*] Who will run the company in the event of your death or *incapacity*? [=if you die or become unable to run it] [*count*] I'm aware of my weaknesses and *incapacities*. ▪ They have a complete *incapacity* for dealing with numbers. [=they are not able to deal with numbers]

in•car•cer•ate /ɪnˈkɑəsəˌreɪt/ *verb* **-ates**; **-at•ed**; **-at•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to put (someone) in prison : IMPRISON — usually used as *(be) incarcerated* ▪ They *were* both *incarcerated* for armed robbery.

– **in•car•cer•a•tion** /ɪnˌkɑəsəˈreɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ They were each sentenced to six months' *incarceration*. [=*imprisonment*]

[1]in•car•nate /ɪnˈkɑənət/ *adj, formal* : having a human body ▪ an *incarnate* deity ▪ He treats her as though she's the devil *incarnate*. [=a human devil; a very evil person] ▪ goodness/evil *incarnate*

[2]in•car•nate /ɪnˈkɑəˌneɪt/ *verb* **-nates**; **-nat•ed**; **-nat•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to represent (something, such as an idea or quality) in a clear and obvious way : EMBODY ▪ He *incarnates* the nation's political ideals. = The nation's political ideals are *incarnated* in him.

in•car•na•tion /ˌɪnkɑəˈneɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**

1 [*count*] : one of a series of lives that a person is believed to have had in the past in some religions ▪ He claims that he was a Greek soldier in a previous *incarnation*. [=in a previous life; when he lived in the past as a different person] — often used figuratively ▪ In an earlier *incarnation* [=an earlier phase of her life] she was a rock musician. ▪ The TV and movie *incarnations* [=*versions*] of the story differ significantly. ▪ The software's latest *incarnation* [=*version*] includes many new features. — compare REINCARNATION

2 [*count*] : a person who represents a quality or idea ▪ She is the *incarnation* [=*embodiment*] of goodness. [=she is a very good person]

3 *the Incarnation* *in the Christian religion* : the belief in Jesus Christ as both God and a human being ▪ the doctrine of *the Incarnation*

in•cau•tious /ɪnˈkɑːʃəs/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal* : not careful about avoiding danger or risk : not cautious : CARELESS ▪ He offended several people with his *incautious* remarks. ▪ Their *incautious* behavior is going to get them into trouble someday.

– **in•cau•tious•ly** *adv* ▪ an *incautiously* worded statement

in•cen•di•ary /ɪnˈsɛndiˌeri, *Brit* ɪnˈsɛndiəri/ *adj*

1 : containing chemicals that explode into flame : producing a fire ▪ The fire was started by an *incendiary* bomb/device.

2 [*more ~; most ~*] : causing anger ▪ They use *incendiary* [=*inflammatory*] rhetoric to get public attention. ▪ *incendiary* words/language

[1]in•cense /ˈɪnˌsɛns/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a substance that is used often in religious ceremonies to produce a strong and pleasant smell when it is burned

[2]in•cense /ɪnˈsɛns/ *verb* **-cens•es**; **-censed**; **-cens•ing** [+ *obj*] : to make (someone) very angry ▪ Her arrogance so *incensed* them that they refused to speak to her. ▪ She *incensed* them with/by her arrogance. ▪ We were *incensed* (to find) that such behavior was tolerated.

in•cen•tive /ɪnˈsɛntɪv/ *noun, pl* **-tives :** something that encourages a person to do something or to work harder [*count*] Our salespeople are given financial *incentives* for reaching their quotas. [=if they reach their quotas they are

paid more money] ▪ The rising cost of electricity provides a strong/powerful *incentive* to conserve energy. ▪ The government offers special tax *incentives* for entrepreneurs. ▪ The company is offering a special low price as an ***added incentive*** for new customers. [*noncount*] employees who lack *incentive* — opposite DISINCENTIVE

in•cep•tion /ɪn'sɛpʃən/ *noun, formal* : the time at which something begins : BEGINNING, START [*singular*] The project has been shrouded in controversy from/since its *inception*. ▪ Since its *inception*, the business has expanded to become a national retail chain. [*noncount*] We'll assist you at every stage from *inception* to completion.

in•ces•sant /ɪn'sɛsn̩t/ *adj* : continuing without stopping : not stopping — used to describe something that is unpleasant or annoying ▪ The neighbors were bothered by the dog's *incessant* barking. ▪ Their *incessant* talking often distracts the other students.

– **in•ces•sant•ly** *adv* ▪ She pestered us *incessantly*.

in•cest /'ɪn,sɛst/ *noun* [*noncount*] : sexual intercourse between people who are very closely related ▪ commit *incest* ▪ the crime of *incest*

in•ces•tu•ous /ɪn'sɛstʃəwəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : involving sexual intercourse between closely related people : involving incest ▪ There were rumors that the father and daughter had had an *incestuous* relationship. — often used figuratively ▪ lobbyists who have an *incestuous* relationship [=an excessively close relationship] with politicians

– **in•ces•tu•ous•ly** *adv*

[1]inch /'ɪntʃ/ *noun, pl* **inch•es** [*count*]

1 : a unit of measurement equal to 1/36 yard or 1/12 of a foot (2.54 centimeters) ▪ It measures six *inches* from top to bottom. ▪ an insect that is an *inch* long = an *inch*-long insect ▪ I'm five feet, two *inches* tall. = I'm five foot two (*inches*).

2 : a small amount, distance, or degree ▪ The bullet missed my head ***by inches*** [=the bullet came very close to hitting my head] ▪ I begged him to reconsider, but he wouldn't ***give/budge an inch*** [=he wouldn't make even a slight change in his opinion or attitude] ▪ I tried to improve the system, but she opposed me ***every inch of the way*** [=she opposed everything that I tried to do] ▪ We searched ***every inch of*** the house. [=we searched the house completely] ✧ The expression ***(if you) give them an inch, (and) they'll take a mile*** means that if you allow people to have a small amount of something that they want, they will take much more of it. ▪ The school is considering allowing older students to leave the campus for lunch on Fridays, but I'm concerned that *if we give them an inch, they'll take a mile*. [=students will leave campus more often]

every inch : to the highest degree ▪ He's *every inch* a winner. [=he's a winner in every way]

inch by inch : by moving very slowly ▪ We made our way *inch by inch* through the darkened corridor.

within an inch of : almost to the point of (something) ▪ She came *within an inch of* death/dying. [=she came very close to dying] ▪ They beat him (to) ***within an inch of his life*** [=they beat him so badly that he nearly died]

[2]inch *verb, always followed by an adverb or preposition* **inch•es**; **inched**; **inch•ing** : to move very slowly or by a small amount in a specified direction or manner [*no obj*] We *inched* along in heavy traffic. ▪ As she neared the finish line, she *inched* ahead of the other racers. ▪ Gas prices are *inching* up again. [+ *obj*] I *inched* the car into the garage.

in•cho•ate /ɪn'kowət/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : not completely formed or developed yet : VAGUE ▪ *inchoate* yearnings ▪ *inchoate* ideas

in•ci•dence /'ɪnsədəns/ *noun, pl* **-denc•es** [*count*]

1 : the number of times something happens or develops : the rate at which something occurs ▪ The drug has been linked with a higher *incidence* of certain cancers. [=the drug seems to cause certain cancers; people who take the drug seem to be more likely to get certain cancers] ▪ an increased *incidence* of diabetes ▪ a high/low *incidence* of criminal behavior ▪ a disease with an *incidence* of one in 100,000 [=a disease that affects one person out of every 100,000]

2 *technical* : the angle at which a ray (such as a ray of light) hits a surface ▪ the angle of *incidence*

in•ci•dent /'ɪnsədənt/ *noun, pl* **-dents**

1 : an unexpected and usually unpleasant thing that happens [*count*] We just want to put that embarrassing *incident* behind us. ▪ Two people were shot yesterday in two separate *incidents*. ▪ Aside from a few isolated *incidents*, the crowd was well-behaved. ▪ a shooting *incident* ▪ Many such *incidents* go unreported. [*noncount*] The suspects were arrested ***without incident***. [=without any unexpected trouble]

2 [*count*] : an event or disagreement that is likely to cause serious problems in relations between countries ▪ a border *incident* ▪ The bombing caused/provoked an international *incident*.

[1]in•ci•den•tal /ˌɪnsə'dɛntl̩/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : happening as a minor part or result of something else ▪ You may incur some *incidental* expenses on the trip. ▪ an *incidental* part of the job ▪ an *incidental* observation ▪ He writes *incidental* music for plays. — often + *to* ▪ This chapter is *incidental to* the plot.

[2]incidental *noun, pl* **-tals** [*count*] : something that happens as a minor part or result of something else : something that is incidental — usually plural ▪ We received a bill for tuition plus *incidentals*. [=incidental expenses] ▪ You should bring enough money to cover *incidentals* like cab fare and tips.

in•ci•den•tal•ly /ˌɪnsə'dɛntl̩i/ *adv*

1 : as something that is less interesting or important ▪ The report discusses the problem only *incidentally*. [=*in passing*] ▪ Not *incidentally*, the market slump was followed by widespread layoffs.

2 — used to introduce a statement that provides added information or that mentions another subject ▪ I recently met his wife who, *incidentally* [=*by the way*], is a well-known author. ▪ This product is the best—and, *incidentally* [=*by the way*], the most expensive—of its kind. ▪ *Incidentally* [=*by the way*], I saw Susan yesterday and she asked about you.

in•cin•er•ate /ɪn'sɪnə,reɪt/ *verb* **-ates**; **-at•ed**; **-at•ing** [+ *obj*] : to burn (something) completely ▪ The waste is *incinerated* in a large furnace.

– **in•cin•er•a•tion** /ɪn,sɪnə'reɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *incineration* of hazardous materials

in•cin•er•a•tor /ɪn'sɪnə,reɪtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*] : a machine or container that is used for burning garbage, waste, etc.

in•cip•i•ent /ɪn'sɪpijənt/ *adj, always used before a noun, formal* : beginning to develop or exist ▪ The project is still in its *incipient* stages. ▪ an *incipient* romance [=a romance that is just beginning]

in•cise /ɪn'saɪz/ *verb* **-cis•es**; **-cised**; **-cis•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to cut or carve (letters, patterns, etc.) into a surface ▪ The design is *incised* into the clay.; *also* : to mark (a surface) by cutting or carving ▪ The clay is *incised* to create a design.

– **incised** *adj* ▪ an *incised* pattern ▪ *incised* tablets

in•ci•sion /ɪn'sɪʒən/ *noun, pl* **-sions** [*count*] : a cut made in something; *especially, medical* : a cut made into the body during surgery ▪ a small abdominal *incision*

in•ci•sive /ɪn'saɪsɪv/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : very clear and direct ▪ an *incisive* analysis/commentary/observation : able to explain difficult ideas clearly and confidently ▪ She's known for her *incisive* mind and quick wit.

– **in•ci•sive•ly** *adv* ▪ an *incisively* funny film ▪ He has written *incisively* about the problem. – **in•ci•sive•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *incisiveness* of her analysis

in•ci•sor /ɪn'saɪzɚ/ *noun, pl* **-sors** [*count*] : a tooth that has a sharp edge for biting : one of the four front teeth of the upper or lower jaw

in•cite /ɪn'saɪt/ *verb* **-cites**; **-cit•ed**; **-cit•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to cause (someone) to act in an angry, harmful, or violent way ▪ The victim had done nothing to *incite* [=*provoke*] the attackers. — often + *to* ▪ They were clearly trying to *incite* the crowd *to* violence. — often followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ He *incited* the students *to riot*.

2 : to cause (an angry, harmful, or violent action or feeling) ▪ They were arrested and charged with *inciting* [=*provoking*] a riot. ▪ The news *incited* widespread fear and paranoia.

– **in•cite•ment** /ɪn'saɪtmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments** [*count*] His words were an *incitement* to riot. [*noncount*] They were charged with *incitement* to violence.

in•ci•vil•i•ty /ˌɪnsə'vɪlətɪ/ *noun, pl* **-ties** *formal*

1 [*noncount*] : a rude or impolite attitude or behavior : lack of civility ▪ Never before have I been treated with such *incivility*! [=*rudeness*]

2 [*count*] : a rude or impolite act ▪ We chose to ignore their little insults and *incivilities*.

incl. *abbr* include; included; including; inclusive

in•clem•ent /ɪn'klɛmənt, 'ɪnkləmənt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : having rain and storms : STORMY ▪ The game was postponed due to *inclement* weather. — compare CLEMENT

in•cli•na•tion /ˌɪnklə'neɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**

1 : a feeling of wanting to do something : a tendency to do

something [*noncount*] She shows no/little *inclination* to give in to their demands. ▪ He's a loner ***by inclination***. [*count*] My first/initial/natural *inclination* was to say no, but I finally decided to do what she asked. ▪ We can either go now or plan to go later. What's your *inclination*? [=what are you inclined to do?; what do you want to do?] ▪ I have neither the time nor the *inclination* to learn about such matters. ▪ a person with artistic *inclinations* [=a person who wants to do artistic things] ▪ Her natural *inclination* [=*tendency*] is to do what other people are doing. ▪ The door has an *inclination* to stick. [=the door often sticks; the door tends to stick] ▪ He has an *inclination* to brag. = He has an *inclination* towards bragging. — opposite DISINCLINATION

2 [*count*] : a slanting surface : SLOPE ▪ a steep *inclination*

3 [*count*] : the act of bending your head or body forward : the act of inclining your head or body ▪ He acknowledged us with a slight *inclination* [=(more commonly) *nod*] of his head.

[1]in•cline /ɪn'klaɪn/ *verb* **-clines; -clined; -clin•ing**

1 : to bend forward or to cause (something) to bend forward [*no obj*] Her head *inclined* forward. [+ *obj*] He *inclined* [=(more commonly) *nodded*] his head slightly. ▪ She listened with her eyes closed and her head *inclined*.

2 [*no obj*] : to lean or slope ▪ The road *inclines* at an angle of about 12 degrees.

3 [+ *obj*] *formal* : to cause (someone) to want to do something or to be likely to do something ▪ His love of books *inclined* him toward a literary career.

4 *formal* : to think or to cause (someone) to think that something is probably true or correct — followed by *to* + *verb* [*no obj*] I *incline to agree* with you. [=(more commonly) I am inclined to agree with you] [+ *obj*] The evidence *inclines* me *to think* that she isn't guilty. [=makes me think that she probably isn't guilty] — see also INCLINED

[2]in•cline /'ɪnˌklaɪn/ *noun, pl* **-clines** [*count*] : a slanting surface : SLOPE ▪ We drove up a steep *incline* to the summit. ▪ You can adjust the *incline* of the ramp. ▪ a slight *incline*

in•clined /ɪn'klaɪnd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 *not used before a noun* : wanting to do something or likely to do something ▪ people who are *inclined* toward volunteering ▪ Feel free to leave early if you're ***so inclined***. [=if you want to] — usually followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ I'm *inclined to leave* early [=I would like to leave early], if that's OK with you. ▪ She didn't seem *inclined* [=*disposed*] *to help* us. ▪ He's *inclined to brag* about his accomplishments. [=he often brags about his accomplishments] ▪ The door is *inclined to stick*. [=the door often sticks]

2 — used with verbs like *agree, think, believe, suppose*, etc., to express a thought or opinion that is not strong or certain ▪ I'm *inclined to agree* with you. [=I think you are probably correct] ▪ We're *inclined to think* she was mistaken. [=we think she was probably mistaken] — see also [1]INCLINE 4

3 : having an interest in or a talent for something ▪ a special school for children who are ***inclined toward*** the arts — usually used after an adverb (such as *artistically, mechanically*, or *musically*) ▪ She's always been artistically *inclined*. [=she has always had a talent for art]

4 : having a slope ▪ an *inclined* surface

in•clude /ɪn'klu:d/ *verb* **-cludes; -clud•ed; -clud•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 *not used in progressive tenses* : to have (someone or something) as part of a group or total : to contain (someone or something) in a group or as a part of something ▪ The speakers will *include* several experts on the subject. ▪ The price of dinner *includes* dessert. ▪ Admission to the museum is *included* in the tour package. — opposite EXCLUDE

2 : to make (someone or something) a part of something ▪ The results came in too late for us to *include* them in the study. ▪ He says he doesn't want to be *included* in the project. [=he doesn't want to participate in the project] — opposite EXCLUDE

– **in•clu•sion** /ɪn'klu:ʒən/ *noun, pl* **-sions** [*noncount*] I was surprised by the *inclusion* of his name in the credits. ▪ the *inclusion* of parents at the school board meeting [*count*] The collection has some surprising *inclusions*. [=it includes some surprising things]

included *adj, not used before a noun* — used to say that someone or something is part of a group or total ▪ Everyone, myself/me *included* [=everyone, including me], liked the book better than the movie. ▪ We should invite everyone, George *included*. ▪ The price is $122, tax *included*. [=including tax]

in•clud•ing /ɪn'klu:dɪŋ/ *prep* : having (someone or something) as part of a group or total ▪ Everyone, *including* me, liked the book better than the movie. ▪ All his doctors, *including* the chief surgeon, agree on the diagnosis. ▪ It costs $7.99, not *including* sales tax. — opposite EXCLUDING

in•clu•sive /ɪn'klu:sɪv/ *adj*

1 : covering or including everything ▪ an *inclusive* fee/tour ▪ an *inclusive* insurance policy — opposite EXCLUSIVE; see also ALL-INCLUSIVE

2 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : open to everyone : not limited to certain people ▪ an *inclusive* club ▪ an *inclusive* political movement — opposite EXCLUSIVE

3 *not used before a noun* : including the stated limits and everything in between ▪ a program for children seven to ten years of age *inclusive* [=children seven, eight, nine, and ten years of age] ▪ Our assignment is to read pages 10 to 20 *inclusive*. [=pages 10 to/through 20]

inclusive of *formal* : including (something) ▪ The price is *inclusive of* tax. [=the price includes tax]

– **in•clu•sive•ly** *adv* – **in•clu•sive•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] – **in•clu•siv•i•ty** /ɪnˌklu:'sɪvəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal*

in•cog•ni•to /ˌɪnˌkɑ:g'ni:toʊ/ *adv* : with your true identity kept secret (as by using a different name or a disguise) ▪ He travels *incognito*.

– **incognito** *adj* ▪ He remained *incognito* while living there. ▪ The food critic made an *incognito* visit to the restaurant.

in•co•her•ent /ˌɪnkoʊ'hirənt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not coherent: such as **a** : not able to talk or express yourself in a clear way that can be easily understood ▪ The fever made her *incoherent*. ▪ He was very upset and practically *incoherent* after the accident. ▪ an *incoherent* patient **b** : not logical or well-organized : not easy to understand ▪ an *incoherent* story [=a story that does not make sense] ▪ The memo is completely *incoherent*.

– **in•co•her•ence** /ˌɪnkoʊ'hirəns/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ The patient experiences periods of *incoherence*. ▪ They criticized him for the *incoherence* of his writing. – **in•co•her•ent•ly** *adv* ▪ She responded *incoherently*.

in•come /'ɪnˌkʌm/ *noun, pl* **-comes** : money that is earned from work, investments, business, etc. [*noncount*] Any *income* from investments must be reported. ▪ taxable *income* ▪ Farming is his main source of *income*. [*count*] Even on two *incomes*, we're having a hard time keeping up with our bills. ▪ He earns a good *income* as a consultant. ▪ What was the company's annual *income*? ▪ families with low/high *incomes* ▪ a two-*income* family [=a family in which both adults have jobs that provide income] ▪ ***low-income housing*** [=housing for people who have low incomes]

in•com•er /'ɪnˌkʌmɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *Brit* : a person who comes to a place to live

income tax *noun, pl* ~ **taxes** : a tax paid on the money that a person or business receives as income [*noncount*] Federal *income tax* will be deducted from your pay. [*count*] The new law will lower *income taxes* for most taxpayers.

in•com•ing /'ɪnˌkʌmɪŋ/ *adj, always used before a noun* : coming in: such as **a** : arriving at or coming to a place ▪ All *incoming* phone calls are monitored for quality control. ▪ *incoming* mail/messages ▪ *Incoming* [=*arriving*] flights were delayed by the storm. ▪ the *incoming* tide **b** : taking a place or position that is being left by another person or group ▪ the *incoming* president ▪ the *incoming* [=*new*] freshman class — opposite OUTGOING

in•com•mu•ni•ca•do /ˌɪnkəˌmju:nə'kɑ:doʊ/ *adj, not used before a noun, formal* : not able to communicate with other people : in a situation or state that does not allow communication with other people ▪ The prisoner was held/kept *incommunicado* for six weeks. ▪ She remained *incommunicado* while working on her book.

in•com•pa•ra•ble /ɪn'kɑ:mpərəbəl/ *adj* : better than any other : having no equal ▪ The quality of their products is *incomparable*. ▪ an *incomparable* musician ▪ an *incomparable* view of the valley

– **in•com•pa•ra•bly** /ɪn'kɑ:mpərəbli/ *adv* ▪ an *incomparably* beautiful view

in•com•pat•i•ble /ˌɪnkəm'pætəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not compatible: such as **a** : not able to exist together without trouble or conflict : not going together well ▪ *incompatible* people [=people who do not get along well with each other] ▪ Their personalities were *incompatible*. ▪ *incompatible* colors ▪ a policy that is *incompatible* with my beliefs [=that does not agree with my beliefs] **b** : not able to be used together ▪ *incompatible* computer systems ▪ *incompatible* drugs

▪ This printer is *incompatible* with some PCs.
– **in•com•pat•i•bil•i•ty** /ˌɪnkəmˌpætəˈbɪlətɪ/ *noun, pl* **-ties** [*noncount*] She sued for divorce on the grounds of *incompatibility*. ▪ software *incompatibility* ▪ *incompatibility* between drugs [*count*] Certain *incompatibilities* can prevent the program from running correctly.

in•com•pe•tence /ɪnˈkɑ:mpətəns/ *noun* [*noncount*] : lack of the ability to do something well : the quality or state of not being competent ▪ mental *incompetence* ▪ Because of his *incompetence*, we won't make our deadline. ▪ She was fired for gross *incompetence*. — opposite COMPETENCE

in•com•pe•ten•cy /ɪnˈkɑ:mpətənsi/ *noun* [*noncount*] : INCOMPETENCE

[1]in•com•pe•tent /ɪnˈkɑ:mpətənt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not competent: such as **a** : lacking necessary ability or skills ▪ an *incompetent* worker/doctor ▪ He is too *incompetent* to be trusted with such an important responsibility. ▪ The patient is mentally *incompetent*. **b** *law* : not able to take part in a trial ▪ The defendant was declared *incompetent* to stand trial. ▪ an *incompetent* witness
– **in•com•pe•tent•ly** *adv* ▪ The investigation was handled *incompetently*.

[2]incompetent *noun, pl* **-tents** [*count*] : a person who is not able to do something well : an incompetent person ▪ That department is full of *incompetents*.

in•com•plete /ˌɪnkəmˈpli:t/ *adj*
1 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : lacking some part : not finished : not complete ▪ an *incomplete* set of encyclopedias ▪ The sentence is *incomplete*. ▪ She handed in an *incomplete* assignment.
2 *American football, of a forward pass* : not caught by the player the ball was thrown to ▪ an *incomplete* pass
– **in•com•plete•ly** *adv* ▪ *incompletely* digested food ▪ an *incompletely* understood disease – **in•com•plete•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

in•com•pre•hen•si•ble /ɪnˌkɑ:mprɪˈhɛnsəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : impossible to understand : not comprehensible ▪ I found his behavior utterly *incomprehensible*. ▪ It's *incomprehensible* to me that he could have acted that way. ▪ an *incomprehensible* theory/decision
– **in•com•pre•hen•si•bil•i•ty** /ɪnˌkɑ:mprɪˌhɛnsəˈbɪlətɪ/ *noun* [*noncount*] – **in•com•pre•hen•si•bly** /ɪnˌkɑ:mprɪˈhɛnsəblɪ/ *adv*

in•com•pre•hen•sion /ɪnˌkɑ:mprɪˈhɛnʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] : lack of understanding ▪ She gave me a look of complete/utter *incomprehension*. ▪ He viewed the situation with *incomprehension*.

in•con•ceiv•able /ˌɪnkənˈsi:vəbəl/ *adj* : impossible to imagine or believe : not conceivable ▪ It's *inconceivable* (to me) that anyone could have survived such a violent crash. ▪ The fire caused an *inconceivable* amount of damage. ▪ After coming this far, to quit now would be *inconceivable*.
– **in•con•ceiv•ably** /ˌɪnkənˈsi:vəblɪ/ *adv* ▪ The fire caused an *inconceivably* large amount of damage.

in•con•clu•sive /ˌɪnkənˈklu:sɪv/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not showing that something is certainly true : not conclusive ▪ The results of the test were/proved *inconclusive*. ▪ *inconclusive* evidence ▪ an *inconclusive* argument ▪ The first two rounds of the boxing match were *inconclusive*.
– **in•con•clu•sive•ly** *adv* ▪ The first round ended *inconclusively*, with no clear winner.

in•con•gru•ous /ɪnˈkɑ:ŋgrəwəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : strange because of not agreeing with what is usual or expected ▪ His outburst seemed *incongruous* to those who know him well. ▪ The style of the porch is *incongruous* with [=does not match] the style of the house overall. ▪ The modern sculpture seems *incongruous* [=*out of place*] among all the antiques.
– **in•con•gru•i•ty** /ˌɪnkənˈgru:wətɪ/ *noun, pl* **-ties** [*count, noncount*] – **in•con•gru•ous•ly** *adv*

in•con•se•quen•tial /ɪnˌkɑ:nsəˈkwɛnʃəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : not important ▪ *inconsequential* evidence/differences ▪ His opinion is *inconsequential*.

in•con•sid•er•able /ˌɪnkənˈsɪdərəbəl/ *adj, formal* : not large enough in size or amount to be considered important — used in negative statements ▪ a woman of ***not inconsiderable*** wealth [=a wealthy woman] ▪ It was a *not inconsiderable* accomplishment. [=it was not a trivial accomplishment; it was an important or impressive accomplishment] ▪ He played ***no inconsiderable*** role [=his role was important] in resolving the crisis.

in•con•sid•er•ate /ˌɪnkənˈsɪdərət/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not considerate ▪ an *inconsiderate* [=*thoughtless*] remark ▪ He was rude and *inconsiderate* to the waiter. ▪ There is no excuse for such *inconsiderate* behavior. — often + *of* ▪ It was *inconsiderate of* you to keep me waiting. ▪ She is very *inconsiderate of* her neighbors.
– **in•con•sid•er•ate•ly** *adv* ▪ He treats people *inconsiderately*.

in•con•sis•ten•cy /ˌɪnkənˈsɪstənsi/ *noun, pl* **-cies**
1 : the quality or fact of being inconsistent: such as **a** [*noncount*] : the quality or fact of not staying the same at different times ▪ Police noticed *inconsistency* in his two statements. ▪ Customers have been complaining about the *inconsistency* in the quality of service they have received. ▪ The team's biggest problem has been *inconsistency*: it has played well at times, but at other times it has played very poorly. **b** : the quality or fact of having parts that disagree with each other [*noncount*] There is some *inconsistency* in her argument. [*count*] Careful editing of the entire text has eliminated *inconsistencies* of style.
2 [*count*] : a difference or disagreement between two statements which means that both cannot be true ▪ We noted a major *inconsistency* in his story.

in•con•sis•tent /ˌɪnkənˈsɪstənt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not consistent: such as **a** : not always acting or behaving in the same way ▪ His pitching has been very *inconsistent*. [=*unreliable*] ▪ Customers have been complaining about the *inconsistent* service they have received. **b** : not continuing to happen or develop in the same way ▪ The pain has been *inconsistent*. ▪ Her grades have been *inconsistent* this school year. **c** : having parts that disagree with each other ▪ Their descriptions of the accident were *inconsistent*. ▪ The results of the two experiments were *inconsistent*. ▪ She was *inconsistent* in her argument. [=her argument included parts that did not agree with one another] : not in agreement *with* something ▪ His statements were *inconsistent with* the truth. [=were not true] ▪ The decision was *inconsistent with* the company's policy.
– **in•con•sis•tent•ly** *adv* ▪ The team has been playing *inconsistently* all season.

in•con•sol•able /ˌɪnkənˈsoʊləbəl/ *adj* : extremely sad and not able to be comforted ▪ She was *inconsolable* when she learned that he had died.
– **in•con•sol•ably** /ˌɪnkənˈsoʊləblɪ/ *adv* ▪ The child cried *inconsolably*.

in•con•spic•u•ous /ˌɪnkənˈspɪkjəwəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not very easy to see or notice : not conspicuous ▪ an *inconspicuous* brick building ▪ She tried to remain as *inconspicuous* as possible so that no one would see her there.
– **in•con•spic•u•ous•ly** *adv* ▪ He always dressed *inconspicuously* in a gray suit.

in•con•stant /ɪnˈkɑ:nstənt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 *literary* : likely to change in feelings ▪ an *inconstant* friend/lover
2 *formal* : changing often ▪ an *inconstant* world ▪ the *inconstant* nature of the business

in•con•test•able /ˌɪnkənˈtɛstəbəl/ *adj, formal* : not able to be doubted or questioned : INDISPUTABLE ▪ The evidence against him is *incontestable*. ▪ an *incontestable* fact
– **in•con•test•ably** /ˌɪnkənˈtɛstəblɪ/ *adv* ▪ They proved *incontestably* that the painting was an original. ▪ *incontestably* true

in•con•ti•nent /ɪnˈkɑ:ntənənt/ *adj, medical* : not having control of your bladder or bowels ▪ special products for *incontinent* patients
– **in•con•ti•nence** /ɪnˈkɑ:ntənəns/ *noun* [*noncount*]

in•con•tro•vert•ible /ɪnˌkɑ:ntrəˈvətəbəl/ *adj, formal* : not able to be doubted or questioned : INDISPUTABLE ▪ *incontrovertible* evidence/proof
– **in•con•tro•vert•ibly** /ɪnˌkɑ:ntrəˈvətəblɪ/ *adv* ▪ proved the point *incontrovertibly*

[1]in•con•ve•nience /ˌɪnkənˈvi:njəns/ *noun, pl* **-nienc•es**
1 [*noncount*] : trouble or problems ▪ I hope this delay doesn't cause you any *inconvenience*. ▪ Bridge repairs cannot be done without some *inconvenience* to the public.
2 [*count*] : something that causes trouble or problems : something that is inconvenient ▪ Parking in the city can be a major *inconvenience*. ▪ The delay was an *inconvenience*.

[2]inconvenience *verb* **-niences; -nienced; -nienc•ing** [+ *obj*] : to cause trouble or problems for (someone) ▪ I wouldn't want to *inconvenience* you. ▪ We were *inconvenienced* by the bad weather.

in•con•ve•nient /ˌɪnkənˈvi:njənt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

: causing trouble or problems : not convenient ▪ The restaurant is in an *inconvenient* location. ▪ I can call back if this is an *inconvenient* time to talk. = I can call back if it's *inconvenient* for you to talk now. ▪ an *inconvenient* delay
– **in•con•ve•nient•ly** *adv*

in•cor•po•rate /ɪnˈkoɚpəˌreɪt/ *verb* **-rates**; **-rat•ed**; **-rat•ing**
1 [+ *obj*] : to include (something) as part of something else ▪ This design *incorporates* the best features of our earlier models. ▪ a diet that *incorporates* many different fruits and vegetables — often + *in* or *into* ▪ The results of the study were *incorporated in* the final report. ▪ The committee recommended that we *incorporate* several new rules *into* the bylaws.
2 *business* : to form into a corporation [+ *obj*] The company was *incorporated* in 1981. [*no obj*] The company *incorporated in* 1981.
– **in•cor•po•ra•tion** /ɪnˌkoɚpəˈreɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *incorporation* of different musical styles ▪ plans for the eventual *incorporation* of the company

in•cor•por•a•ted /ɪnˈkoɚpəˌreɪtəd/ *adj* : formed into a legal corporation in the U.S. ▪ The company is *incorporated* in the state of Delaware. — often used in the names of corporations ▪ Merriam-Webster, *Incorporated* — abbr. *Inc.*

in•cor•po•re•al /ˌɪnkoɚˈporijəl/ *adj, formal* : having no physical body or form ▪ *incorporeal* spirits

in•cor•rect /ˌɪnkəˈrɛkt/ *adj* : not correct: such as **a** : not true or accurate : WRONG ▪ an *incorrect* answer ▪ The doctor's diagnosis was *incorrect*. ▪ The story in the newspaper is *incorrect*. ▪ *incorrect* information **b** : having errors or mistakes ▪ a grammatically *incorrect* sentence ▪ *incorrect* pronunciation/punctuation/spelling/usage **c** : not proper or appropriate in a particular situation ▪ Their behavior was *incorrect*. = It was *incorrect* of them to behave like that. ▪ The restaurant considers jeans and T-shirts *incorrect* attire for dinner. — see also POLITICALLY INCORRECT
– **in•cor•rect•ly** *adv* ▪ You filled out the form *incorrectly*. ▪ He answered several questions *incorrectly*. – **in•cor•rect•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

in•cor•ri•gi•ble /ɪnˈkorəʤəbəl/ *adj* : not able to be corrected or changed ▪ an *incorrigible* gambler/optimist/prankster ▪ an *incorrigible* habit of playing practical jokes ▪ He is always the class clown and his teachers say he is *incorrigible*.
– **in•cor•ri•gi•bly** /ɪnˈkorəʤəbli/ *adv* ▪ *incorrigibly* [=*hopelessly, incurably*] romantic

in•cor•rupt•ible /ˌɪnkəˈrʌptəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : very honest : incapable of being corrupted ▪ He was trusted, respected, and completely *incorruptible*. ▪ the town's *incorruptible* mayor
– **in•cor•rupt•ibil•i•ty** /ˌɪnkəˌrʌptəˈbɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*]

[1]in•crease /ɪnˈkri:s/ *verb* **-creas•es**; **-creased**; **-creas•ing**
1 [*no obj*] : to become larger or greater in size, amount, number, etc. ▪ Sales *increased* [=*rose*] this year. ▪ The store is *increasing* [=*raising*] its prices. ▪ Skill *increases* with practice. ▪ The population is *increasing* [=*growing*] dramatically. ▪ The house *increased* in value.
2 [+ *obj*] : to make (something) larger or greater in size, amount, number, etc. ▪ They will soon *increase* [=*raise*] the price from $50 to $60. ▪ She *increased* her wealth substantially. ▪ The pilot *increased* speed. — opposite DECREASE
– **increased** *adj* ▪ These symptoms are associated with an *increased* risk of heart disease. – **increasing** *adj* ▪ There has been *increasing* criticism of his policies.

[2]in•crease /ˈɪnˌkri:s/ *noun, pl* **-creas•es**
1 : the act of becoming larger or of making something larger or greater in size, amount, number, etc. [*count*] a tax *increase* ▪ population *increases* ▪ *increases* in sales ▪ an *increase* in life expectancy [*noncount*] The employees expect some *increase* in wages. ▪ The construction will probably cause some *increase* in traffic delays.
2 [*count*] : the amount by which something is made larger or greater ▪ The report showed *increases* of between 20 and 30 percent. ▪ an *increase* of three dollars — opposite DECREASE
on the increase : becoming more in size, amount, number, etc. : increasing ▪ The number of college applications is *on the increase*. [=*on the rise*]

in•creas•ing•ly /ɪnˈkri:sɪŋli/ *adv* : more and more : to an increasing degree ▪ People are becoming *increasingly* aware of this problem. ▪ *Increasingly*, scientists are questioning the data. ▪ The situation grew *increasingly* hopeless.

in•cred•i•ble /ɪnˈkrɛdəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : difficult or impossible to believe ▪ The movie tells an *incredible* story of survival. ▪ an *incredible* coincidence ▪ I find his explanation pretty *incredible*. ▪ *Incredible* as it may seem, she's had no formal training as an artist. ▪ It's *incredible* to me that such a lazy person could be so successful.
2 : extremely good, great, or large ▪ a person of *incredible* [=*extraordinary*] skill/talent/intelligence ▪ a landscape of *incredible* beauty ▪ The new job is an *incredible* opportunity. ▪ We have put an *incredible* amount of work into this project.
– **in•cred•i•bly** /ɪnˈkrɛdəbli/ *adv* ▪ The snow fell *incredibly* fast. ▪ *Incredibly*, she has had no formal training as an artist. ▪ an *incredibly* [=*extremely*] dangerous sport ▪ The exam was *incredibly* difficult.

in•cre•du•li•ty /ˌɪnkrɪˈdu:ləti, *Brit* ˌɪnkrɪˈdju:ləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a feeling that you do not or cannot believe or accept that something is true or real : DISBELIEF ▪ The news of his death was met with expressions of *incredulity*.

in•cred•u•lous /ɪnˈkrɛʤələs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not able or willing to believe something : feeling or showing a lack of belief ▪ She listened to his explanation with an *incredulous* smile. ▪ He was *incredulous* at the news. ▪ Many people were *incredulous* that such a small fire could have caused so much damage.
– **in•cred•u•lous•ly** *adv* ▪ She listened *incredulously* as he explained his decision.

in•cre•ment /ˈɪŋkrəmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments** [*count*] : a usually small amount or degree by which something is made larger or greater ▪ They increased the dosage of the drug in small *increments* over a period of several weeks. ▪ Fines increase in *increments* of $10. ▪ The volume is adjustable in 10 equal *increments*. ▪ (*Brit*) Employees receive an ***annual increment*** [=an annual raise in salary; an annual salary increase] of three percent.
– **in•cre•men•tal** /ˌɪŋkrəˈmɛntl/ *adj* ▪ *incremental* changes [=changes that occur in small amounts or very gradually] ▪ *incremental* additions – **in•cre•men•tally** /ˌɪŋkrəˈmɛntḷi/ *adv* ▪ The business grew *incrementally*.

in•crim•i•nate /ɪnˈkrɪməˌneɪt/ *verb* **-nates**; **-nat•ed**; **-nat•ing** [+ *obj*] : to cause (someone) to appear guilty of or responsible for something (such as a crime) ▪ Material found at the crime scene *incriminates* the defendant.
– **incriminating** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ *incriminating* evidence ▪ a very *incriminating* conversation/document – **in•crim•i•na•tion** /ɪnˌkrɪməˈneɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

in•cu•bate /ˈɪŋkjəˌbeɪt/ *verb* **-bates**; **-bat•ed**; **-bat•ing**
1 a [+ *obj*] *of a bird* : to sit on eggs so that they will be kept warm and will hatch ▪ The female bird *incubates* the eggs. **b** [*no obj*] *of an egg* : to be kept warm before hatching ▪ The eggs needs to *incubate* for two weeks.
2 *technical* : to keep (something) in the proper conditions for development [+ *obj*] Researchers *incubated* the cells in the laboratory. [*no obj*] The cultures must *incubate* for five more days. ▪ The virus will *incubate* in the body for several days before the patient experiences any symptoms. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ The plan had been *incubating* [=*developing*] in his mind for several weeks.
– **in•cu•ba•tion** /ˌɪŋkjəˈbeɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*noncount*] The temperature must remain steady during *incubation*. ▪ a long ***incubation period*** [=a time during which something (such as an egg) is incubating or being incubated] [*count*] a long *incubation*

in•cu•ba•tor /ˈɪŋkjəˌbeɪtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*]
1 : a device that is used to keep eggs warm before they hatch
2 *medical* : a piece of equipment in which very weak or sick babies are placed for special care and protection after their birth
3 *business* : an organization or place that helps in the development of new businesses

in•cul•cate /ɪnˈkʌlˌkeɪt, ˈɪnˌkʌlˌkeɪt/ *verb* **-cates**; **-cat•ed**; **-cat•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to cause (something) to be learned by (someone) by repeating it again and again ▪ The teacher *inculcated* in her students the importance of good study habits. ▪ A sense of responsibility was *inculcated* in the students. = The students were *inculcated* with a sense of responsibility.

in•cum•ben•cy /ɪnˈkʌmbənsi/ *noun, pl* **-cies** *formal*
1 [*count*] : the time during which a person holds a particular office or position ▪ Hundreds of new jobs were created during her *incumbency*.
2 : the state of holding a particular office or position [*noncount*] the advantages of *incumbency* during an election [*count*] a politician seeking to keep his *incumbency*

[1]in•cum•bent /ɪnˈkʌmbənt/ *noun, pl* **-bents** [*count*] : a person who holds a particular office or position ▪ Voters will

have the chance to see the *incumbent* and her opponent in a series of three debates. ▪ *Incumbents* often have an advantage in elections.

[2]incumbent /ɪn'kʌmbənt/ *adj, always used before a noun, formal* : holding an office or position ▪ the *incumbent* president/mayor/senator ▪ *incumbent* members of Congress

incumbent on* or *incumbent upon *formal* : necessary as a duty for (someone) ▪ It is *incumbent on* us to help. [=it is our duty to help] ▪ It is *incumbent upon* all employees to participate. [=all employees are required to participate]

in•cur /ɪn'kɚ/ *verb* **-curs**; **-curred**; **-cur•ring** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to cause yourself to have or experience (something unpleasant or unwanted) ▪ *incur* expenses/debt ▪ What did he do to *incur* such wrath?

in•cur•able /ɪn'kjɚrəbəl/ *adj*

1 : impossible to cure : not curable ▪ an *incurable* disease

2 : not likely to be changed ▪ He's an *incurable* romantic. ▪ an *incurable* gossip/optimist

– **in•cur•ably** /ɪn'kjɚrəbli/ *adv* ▪ *incurably* ill ▪ *incurably* [=*hopelessly*] romantic

in•cu•ri•ous /ɪn'kjɚrijəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : having no desire to learn or know more about something or someone : not curious ▪ She is remarkably *incurious* about the natural world.

in•cur•sion /ɪn'kɚʒən/ *noun, pl* **-sions** [*count*] *formal* : a sudden invasion or attack : an act of entering a place or area that is controlled by an enemy ▪ a military *incursion* ▪ an *incursion* into enemy airspace — often used figuratively ▪ an *incursion* of foreign traders into the domestic market ▪ his only *incursion* [=*foray*] into the arts

in•debt•ed /ɪn'dɛtəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : owing something (such as money or thanks) to someone or something : in debt ▪ heavily/deeply *indebted* countries/companies — often + *to* ▪ The museum is deeply *indebted to* its many generous patrons. ▪ She will forever be *indebted to* the hospital staff for saving her son's life.

– **in•debt•ed•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] — often + *to* ▪ She readily acknowledges her great *indebtedness to* the hospital staff for saving her son's life.

in•de•cen•cy /ɪn'di:sṇsi/ *noun, pl* **-cies**

1 [*noncount*] : a morally or sexually offensive quality : an indecent quality ▪ The book has been criticized for *indecency*. ▪ I was shocked by the *indecency* of their language.

2 : behavior that is morally or sexually offensive : indecent behavior [*noncount*] He was arrested for public *indecency*. [=for doing something indecent in public, such as exposing his sexual organs] [*count*] He was accused of sexual *indecencies*.

in•de•cent /ɪn'di:sṇt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not decent: such as **a** : sexually offensive or shocking ▪ *indecent* photos **b** *of clothes* : not covering enough of your body ▪ *indecent* clothing **c** : using language that offends people : including behavior or ideas that people find offensive ▪ an *indecent* joke ▪ *indecent* language **d** : not appropriate or proper ▪ He took *indecent* pleasure in her troubles.

– **in•de•cent•ly** *adv* ▪ an *indecently* short skirt ▪ *indecently* dressed

indecent assault *noun* [*noncount*] *law* : the crime of touching someone sexually without that person's permission

indecent exposure *noun* [*noncount*] *law* : the crime of showing your sexual organs to other people in public

in•de•ci•pher•able /ˌɪndɪ'saɪfərəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : impossible to read or understand : not decipherable ▪ His handwriting is almost *indecipherable*. ▪ an *indecipherable* code/message

in•de•ci•sion /ˌɪndɪ'sɪʒən/ *noun* [*noncount*] : difficulty in making a decision ▪ They were paralyzed by *indecision*.

in•de•ci•sive /ˌɪndɪ'saɪsɪv/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not decisive: such as **a** : not able to make choices quickly and confidently ▪ an *indecisive* person ▪ She's always been very *indecisive*. **b** : not settling something or making something final or certain ▪ an *indecisive* battle ▪ The meeting was *indecisive*.

– **in•de•ci•sive•ly** *adv* ▪ The conflict ended *indecisively*.

– **in•de•ci•sive•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

in•deed /ɪn'di:d/ *adv*

1 : without any question — used to stress the truth of a statement ▪ *Indeed*, he is a great poet. = He is *indeed* a great poet. ▪ This is *indeed* [=*certainly*] a matter of great importance. ▪ They were *indeed* heroes, though they were never honored. ▪ She does *indeed* work here. ▪ I will *indeed* be there. ▪ The problem is a serious one *indeed*. ▪ "Do you know him?" "I do *indeed*." = "*Indeed* I do." ▪ "Do you know him?" "***Yes, indeed***!" [=I certainly do] — often used after *very* ▪ This is a very nice house *indeed*. ▪ Thank you very much *indeed*.

2 — used in response to a statement that is regarded as doubtful or surprising ▪ "I did my best." "Did you *indeed*?" ▪ "The project is still on schedule." "Is it *indeed*?" ▪ "He claims that it was just a misunderstanding." "*Indeed*?"

3 *formal* — used when making a statement that adds to or strengthens a previous statement ▪ He likes to have things his own way; *indeed*, he can be very stubborn. ▪ She is quite lovely, *indeed* a beauty. ▪ Many people objected. *Indeed*, my uncle complained in writing. ▪ It is possible—*indeed*, probable—that the crime was an inside job.

4 — used in a question that repeats and emphasizes a preceding question to show that you do not know the answer ▪ "How can we help them?" "How, *indeed*?" ▪ "When will they come here again?" "When, *indeed*?"

a friend in need is a friend indeed see FRIEND

in•de•fat•i•ga•ble /ˌɪndɪ'fætɪgəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : able to work or continue for a very long time without becoming tired : TIRELESS ▪ an *indefatigable* campaigner ▪ a person of *indefatigable* patience/enthusiasm/optimism

– **in•de•fat•i•ga•bly** /ˌɪndɪ'fætɪgəbli/ *adv* ▪ She works *indefatigably* on behalf of her clients.

in•de•fen•si•ble /ˌɪndɪ'fɛnsəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not defensible: such as **a** : not able to be thought of as good or acceptable ▪ The company adopted an *indefensible* position on the issue. ▪ His behavior is ethically *indefensible*. ▪ Slavery is morally *indefensible*. **b** : not able to be kept safe from damage or harm ▪ The city is in an *indefensible* location.

in•de•fin•able /ˌɪndɪ'faɪnəbəl/ *adj* : impossible to describe or explain ▪ He has an *indefinable* quality that draws people to him.

– **in•de•fin•ably** /ˌɪndi'faɪnəbli/ *adv*

in•def•i•nite /ɪn'dɛfənət/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not definite: such as **a** : not certain in amount or length ▪ We're stuck here for an *indefinite* period of time. ▪ Their plans have been put on *indefinite* hold. **b** : not clear or certain in meaning or details : VAGUE ▪ an *indefinite* answer/boundary ▪ She is *indefinite* about her plans. ▪ Our plans are *indefinite*.

– **in•def•i•nite•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *indefiniteness* of their plans

indefinite article *noun, pl* ~ **-cles** [*count*] : the word *a* or *an* used in English to refer to a person or thing that is not identified or specified ▪ In "I gave a book to the boy" the word "a" is an *indefinite article* and the word "the" is a definite article.; *also* : a word that has a similar use in another language

in•def•i•nite•ly /ɪn'dɛfənətli/ *adv* : for a period of time that might not end ▪ It's foolish to think that economic growth will continue *indefinitely*. [=*forever*] ▪ Their vacation has been postponed *indefinitely*. [=until a later time that has not yet been decided]

indefinite pronoun *noun, pl* ~ **-nouns** [*count*] : a pronoun that does not refer to a specific person or thing ▪ "Anyone," "something," and "few" are *indefinite pronouns*.

in•del•i•ble /ɪn'dɛləbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : impossible to remove or forget ▪ Her performance made an *indelible* [=*unforgettable*] impression on me. ▪ His achievements left an *indelible* [=*enduring*] mark on the era. ▪ an *indelible* image

2 : producing marks that cannot be erased ▪ an *indelible* pencil ▪ *indelible* [=*permanent*] ink

– **in•del•i•bly** /ɪn'dɛləbli/ *adv* ▪ scenes/images *indelibly* captured on film ▪ two names *indelibly* [=*permanently*] linked in the public mind

in•del•i•cate /ɪn'dɛlɪkət/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : not polite : having or showing bad manners or taste : RUDE ▪ Many consider it *indelicate* to talk about such things in mixed company. ▪ an *indelicate* question

– **in•del•i•ca•cy** /ɪn'dɛlɪkəsi/ *noun, pl* **-cies** [*count, noncount*] ▪ Everyone was shocked by the *indelicacy* [=*rudeness*] of his questions. – **in•del•i•cate•ly** *adv*

in•dem•ni•fy /ɪn'dɛmnəˌfaɪ/ *verb* **-fies**; **-fied**; **-fy•ing** [+ *obj*] *law*

1 : to protect (someone) by promising to pay for the cost of possible future damage, loss, or injury ▪ The policy *indemnifies* [=*insures*] you against/for any losses caused by fire. [=the policy promises that if fire destroys things that you own, you will be given money to buy new things]

2 : to give (someone) money or another kind of payment for some damage, loss, or injury ▪ He was required to *indemnify* [=*compensate*] his neighbor for the damage he caused.

– **in•dem•ni•fi•ca•tion** /ɪnˌdɛmnəfəˈkeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ *indemnification* for loss/damages

in•dem•ni•ty /ɪnˈdɛmnəti/ *noun, pl* **-ties** *law*

1 [*noncount*] : a promise to pay for the cost of possible damage, loss, or injury ▪ an agreement providing *indemnity* against prosecution/loss — often used before another noun ▪ an *indemnity* plan/agreement

2 [*count*] : a payment made to someone because of damage, loss, or injury ▪ has paid $2 million in *indemnities*

[1]in•dent /ɪnˈdɛnt/ *verb* **-dents**; **-dent•ed**; **-dent•ing**

1 : to start (one or more lines of text) farther to the right than other lines of text [+ *obj*] The first line of each paragraph should be *indented*. [*no obj*] Don't forget to *indent* when starting a new paragraph.; *also* [+ *obj*] : to end (one or more lines of text) farther to the left than other lines of text ▪ The second paragraph is *indented* from the right margin.

2 [+ *obj*] : to make the edge of (something) go sharply inward : to create an indentation in (something) ▪ Many tiny inlets *indent* the coast. [=there are many tiny inlets along the coast]

3 [*no obj*] *Brit* : to order something from the person or place that can supply it ▪ We *indented* (on headquarters) for supplies.

– **in•dent•ed** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ an *indented* paragraph ▪ deeply *indented* leaves ▪ an *indented* coastline

[2]in•dent /ˈɪnˌdɛnt/ *noun, pl* **-dents** [*count*] : a space at the beginning of a written line or paragraph ▪ Start each paragraph with an *indent*. ▪ a half-inch *indent*

in•den•ta•tion /ˌɪnˌdɛnˈteɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**

1 a [*count*] : a space at the beginning of a written line or paragraph : INDENT ▪ a smaller/larger *indentation* **b** [*noncount*] : the act of indenting a line or paragraph ▪ Our style guidelines call for *indentation* of the first line of each paragraph.

2 [*count*] **a** : a cut in or into the edge of something ▪ A slight *indentation* [=*notch*] was cut into the wood. **b** : an area where the edge of something goes sharply inward ▪ a coastline with many *indentations*

3 [*count*] : a small hole or inward curve made by pressure : DENT ▪ There were several small *indentations* in the surface of the table. ▪ bowl-shaped *indentations*

in•den•tured /ɪnˈdɛnʧəd/ *adj* : required by a contract to work for a certain period of time ▪ immigrants who came to the U.S. as *indentured* servants 200 years ago

in•de•pen•dence /ˌɪndəˈpɛndəns/ *noun*

1 : freedom from outside control or support : the state of being independent [*noncount*] They are fighting for *independence* from colonial rule. [=fighting because they want to stop being a colony ruled by another country] ▪ Her ambition is to achieve financial *independence*. [=to earn all the money she needs; to not depend on money given by anyone else] ▪ She asserted her *independence* from her parents by getting her own apartment. ▪ The country ***declared (its) independence***. [=said that it would no longer accept the rule of another country] ▪ a ***war of independence*** [=a war that is fought to gain independence] [*singular*] He has shown a fierce *independence* of spirit/thought.

2 [*noncount*] : the time when a country or region gains political freedom from outside control ▪ A month after *independence*, elections were held.

Independence Day *noun* [*noncount*] : a holiday celebrating the anniversary of a country's independence from another country that ruled it in the past; *especially* : July 4 celebrated as a legal holiday in the U.S. in honor of the day when the Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776

[1]in•de•pen•dent /ˌɪndəˈpɛndənt/ *adj*

1 : not dependent: such as **a** : not controlled or ruled by another country ▪ The country recently became *independent*. ▪ an *independent* nation **b** : not controlled by other people ▪ They have a good deal of *independent* authority. ▪ an *independent* investigator [=a person who is not directly involved in a situation or dispute and who is free to investigate problems and make judgments about what should be done] **c** : not requiring or relying on other people for help or support ▪ She has an *independent* income. ▪ She is a woman ***of independent means***. [=she has enough money to support herself without help from others] **d** : not associated with or owned by a larger business ▪ an *independent* record label ▪ an *independent* film studio ▪ an *independent* bookstore ▪ They hired an ***independent contractor*** [=a person hired to do work who controls how the work is done] to fix the roof.; *also* : produced by an independent company ▪ an *independent* film

2 : separate from and not connected to other people, things, etc. ▪ Another laboratory has provided *independent* confirmation of the test results. ▪ She is doing an ***independent study*** in Art History this semester. [=a course of study done by a student without an instructor or with help from an instructor but not as part of an organized class] ▪ This car has four-wheel ***independent suspension***. [=each of the four wheels has its own set of supports for the body of the car] — often + *of* ▪ The women enjoyed rights *independent of* their husbands. ▪ The speed of the particle is *independent of* its wavelength. [=is not connected/related to its wavelength]

3 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : acting or thinking freely instead of being guided by other people ▪ She is a very *independent* person. ▪ She has an *independent* mind/spirit. ▪ She's an *independent* thinker. ▪ They lead an *independent* life.

4 *politics* : not belonging to a political party ▪ *independent* voters ▪ an *independent* candidate

– **in•de•pen•dent•ly** *adv* ▪ They were working *independently* from/of one another. ▪ Every store is *independently* owned and operated. ▪ She's *independently* wealthy. ▪ He continues to live *independently* despite his injuries.

[2]independent *noun, pl* **-dents** [*count*]

1 : someone or something that is not connected to others of the same kind ▪ He started publishing a trendy *independent* [=an independent newspaper or magazine] that covers controversial topics. ▪ The school left the conference to become an *independent*. [=a school whose sports teams are not associated with a league]

2 *or* ***Independent*** *politics* : a person who does not belong to a political party ▪ She registered to vote as an *Independent*.

independent clause *noun, pl* ~ **clauses** [*count*] *grammar* : MAIN CLAUSE

in–depth /ɪnˈdɛpθ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : covering many or all important points of a subject : THOROUGH ▪ an *in-depth* investigation/analysis ▪ *in-depth* news coverage ▪ This film takes an *in-depth* look at life on the farm.

in•de•scrib•able /ˌɪndɪˈskraɪbəbəl/ *adj* : impossible to describe : very great or extreme ▪ *indescribable* beauty/joy/relief ▪ *indescribable* pain

– **in•de•scrib•ably** /ˌɪndɪˈskraɪbəbli/ *adv* ▪ an *indescribably* delicious meal

in•de•struc•ti•ble /ˌɪndɪˈstrʌktəbəl/ *adj* : impossible to break or destroy ▪ *indestructible* toys ▪ They claim that the watch is virtually/nearly *indestructible*. [=*unbreakable*] ▪ He was 20 years old and felt that he was *indestructible*. [=he felt that nothing could harm him]

– **in•de•struc•ti•bil•i•ty** /ˌɪndəˌstrʌktəˈbɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ He had a feeling of *indestructibility*.

in•de•ter•mi•nate /ˌɪndɪˈtɚmənət/ *adj, formal* : not able to be stated or described in an exact way ▪ a man of *indeterminate* [=*uncertain*] age ▪ an *indeterminate* number of people ▪ an *indeterminate* color

– **in•de•ter•mi•na•cy** /ˌɪndɪˈtɚmənəsi/ *noun* [*noncount*]

– **in•de•ter•mi•nate•ly** *adv* ▪ an *indeterminately* large number

[1]in•dex /ˈɪnˌdɛks/ *noun, pl* **in•dex•es** *or* **in•di•ces** /ˈɪndəˌsi:z/ [*count*]

1 *pl usually* ***indexes*** : an ordered list: such as **a** : an alphabetical list at the end of a book that shows the page where each thing in the list can be found ▪ Look up the recipe for potato soup in the *index*. ▪ Potato soup is listed under "soup" in the *index*. **b** : a group of related things that are in alphabetical or numerical order ▪ The card catalog is an *index* to the materials in the library.

2 : a sign or number that shows how something is changing or performing ▪ The price of goods is an *index* [=*indication*] of business conditions. : a number that indicates changes in the level of something (such as a stock market) when it rises or falls ▪ a stock *index* ▪ certain economic *indexes/indices* ▪ (*Brit*) an ***index-linked*** pension [=a pension that is linked to an index (such as the retail price index) so that it rises or falls as the index does] — see also CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, RETAIL PRICE INDEX

3 : a device used to point to something (such as a number) ▪ the *index* on a scale

[2]index *verb* **-dexes**; **-dexed**; **-dex•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to provide an index for (something, such as a book) — usually used as *(be) indexed* ▪ an *indexed* book [=a book that has an index]

2 : to list or include (something) in an index ▪ This search engine has *indexed* hundreds of millions of Web sites. — often used as *(be) indexed* ▪ Each term in the book *is indexed*.

3 : to link wages, benefits, etc., to a measurement of changes

in the price of goods and services so that they increase at the same rate — usually used as *(be) indexed to* ▪ Social security benefits *are indexed to* inflation. [=social security benefits increase when inflation occurs]

index card *noun, pl* ~ **cards** [*count*] : a thin paper card used especially for creating an alphabetical index

index finger *noun, pl* ~ **-gers** [*count*] : the finger next to the thumb : FOREFINGER — see picture at HAND

In·dia ink /ˈɪndijə-/ *noun* [*noncount*] *US* : black ink used especially for drawing — called also (*Brit*) *Indian ink*

In·di·an /ˈɪndijən/ *noun, pl* **-ans** [*count*]
1 : a person born, raised, or living in India
2 *often offensive* : NATIVE AMERICAN ***usage*** see NATIVE AMERICAN
– **Indian** *adj* ▪ *Indian* culture/food/music ▪ a person of *Indian* descent ▪ an *Indian* word

Indian corn *noun* [*noncount*] *US*
1 : ¹CORN 1a
2 : corn that has seeds (called kernels) of several different colors on each ear and that is used for decoration

Indian summer *noun, pl* ~ **-mers** [*count*]
1 : a period of warm weather in late autumn or early winter
2 : a happy or pleasant period near the end of someone's life, career, etc. ▪ She is in the *Indian summer* of her career.

in·di·cate /ˈɪndəˌkeɪt/ *verb* **-cates**; **-cat·ed**; **-cat·ing**
1 [+ *obj*] : to show (something) ▪ Our records *indicate* a depth of 3,000 feet here. ▪ Studies *indicate* (that) this chemical could cause cancer. ▪ The map *indicates* where the treasure is buried. : to show that (something) exists or is true ▪ There is nothing to *indicate* that the two events are connected. ▪ The size of his offer *indicates* that he is eager to buy the house. ▪ His hot forehead *indicates* a fever. = His hot forehead *indicates* that he has a fever.
2 [+ *obj*] : to direct attention to (someone or something) usually by pointing ▪ The general used a long ruler to *indicate* on the map exactly where the troops would land. ▪ We asked how to get to the rear entrance, and he *indicated* a path leading around the right side of the building.
3 [+ *obj*] : to show or suggest that (something) is needed — usually used as *(be) indicated* ▪ Further testing *is indicated*. [=is called for; is necessary] ▪ He feels that a different approach *is indicated*.
4 [+ *obj*] : to represent or be a symbol of (something or someone) ▪ A pronoun used as a direct object *indicates* the person or thing receiving the action. ▪ The markers *indicate* a distance of 50 yards. ▪ A new paragraph *indicates* a change in topic. ▪ In "my mother's coat," the apostrophe and "s" *indicate* possession.
5 [+ *obj*] : to say or express (something) briefly ▪ They have *indicated* their willingness/desire to cooperate. ▪ She *indicated* [=*wrote, said*] in her letter that she's planning to arrive next week. ▪ He nodded his head to *indicate* his approval. = He *indicated* his approval with a nod of his head.
6 [*no obj*] *Brit* : to make a signal which shows that you are going to turn when you are driving a vehicle ▪ You forgot to *indicate* [=(*US*) *signal*] before you made your turn.

in·di·ca·tion /ˌɪndəˈkeɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** : something (such as a sign or signal) that points out or shows something [*noncount*] She gave no *indication* that she was angry. = She gave no *indication* [=*hint*] of her anger. ▪ There is some *indication* [=*suggestion*] that the economy is recovering. [*count*] Her evaluation will give me a good *indication* of where I stand in the class. ▪ There were *indications* that he was thinking of changing jobs. ▪ There's ***every indication*** that the strike will end soon. [=it appears to be very likely that the strike will end soon]

¹in·dic·a·tive /ɪnˈdɪkətɪv/ *adj*
1 *not used before a noun* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : showing something : indicating something — usually + *of* ▪ His bitter remarks are *indicative of* the resentment he stills feels over losing his job. [=his bitter remarks show that he still feels resentment over losing his job] ▪ Thin tree rings are *indicative of* slow growth. [=thin tree rings indicate that a tree has grown slowly]
2 *grammar* : of or relating to the verb form that is used to state a fact that can be known or proved ▪ In "I walked to school," the verb *walked* is in the *indicative* mood. ▪ an *indicative* verb form — compare IMPERATIVE, SUBJUNCTIVE

²indicative *noun*
the indicative *grammar* : the form that a verb or sentence has when it is stating a fact that can be known or proved ▪ a verb in *the indicative*

in·di·ca·tor /ˈɪndəˌkeɪtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*]
1 : a sign that shows the condition or existence of something ▪ Economic *indicators* suggest that prices will go up. — often + *of* ▪ The size of the new building is an *indicator of* how much the company has grown. ▪ Her expression is usually a good/reliable *indicator of* how she's feeling.
2 a : a pointer or light that shows the state or condition of something ▪ a control panel with various *indicator* lights **b** : a device that shows a measurement : GAUGE ▪ an airspeed *indicator* **c** *Brit* : TURN SIGNAL

indices *plural of* ¹INDEX

in·dict /ɪnˈdaɪt/ *verb* **-dicts**; **-dict·ed**; **-dict·ing** [+ *obj*] *chiefly US, law* : to formally decide that someone should be put on trial for a crime ▪ A grand jury is expected to *indict* him for murder. — often used as *(be) indicted* ▪ She *was* arraigned in front of a judge and then *indicted* by a grand jury three weeks later. ▪ He has *been indicted* by the grand jury on murder charges.
– **in·dict·able** /ɪnˈdaɪtəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ an *indictable* offense/crime

in·dict·ment /ɪnˈdaɪtmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments**
1 *chiefly US, law* **a** [*count*] : an official written statement charging a person with a crime ▪ The grand jury has handed down *indictments* against several mobsters. **b** [*noncount*] : the act of officially charging someone with a crime : the act of indicting someone ▪ No one was surprised by her *indictment*. ▪ He is ***under indictment*** [=he has been indicted] for perjury by two federal grand juries.
2 [*count*] : an expression or statement of strong disapproval ▪ She intended the film to be an *indictment* of the media.

in·die /ˈɪndi/ *adj, always used before a noun, informal* : not connected with or created by a major producer of music or movies : INDEPENDENT ▪ *indie* rock bands ▪ an *indie* (record) label ▪ the hit *indie* film of the year
– **indie** *noun, pl* **-dies** [*count*] ▪ This film is not like other low-budget *indies*.

in·dif·fer·ence /ɪnˈdɪfərəns/ *noun* : lack of interest in or concern about something : an indifferent attitude or feeling [*noncount*] She was amazed that some people could watch the trial with *indifference*. — often + *to* ▪ You can go or you can stay. It's a matter of complete *indifference to* me. [=I do not care at all if you go or stay] ▪ The government has shown complete/utter *indifference to* the struggles of organized labor. [*singular*] She watched them with a cool *indifference*.

in·dif·fer·ent /ɪnˈdɪfərənt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : not interested in or concerned about something ▪ She was amazed that people could be so *indifferent* about the trial. [=could care so little about the trial] ▪ The movie was poorly received by an *indifferent* public. — often + *to* ▪ They seem to be *indifferent to* the problems of poor people.
2 : neither good nor bad : not very good ▪ She was tired and gave a rather *indifferent* [=*unimpressive*] performance. ▪ *indifferent* [=*mediocre*] leadership ▪ Was the food good, bad, or *indifferent*?
– **in·dif·fer·ent·ly** *adv* ▪ a biography received *indifferently* by the critics

in·dig·e·nous /ɪnˈdɪʤənəs/ *adj* : produced, living, or existing naturally in a particular region or environment ▪ He grows a wide variety of both *indigenous* [=*native*] and exotic plants. ▪ an *indigenous* culture/language ▪ There are several *indigenous* groups that still live in the area. — sometimes + *to* ▪ These birds are *indigenous to* South America.
– **in·dig·e·nous·ly** *adv*

in·di·gent /ˈɪndɪʤənt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : lacking money : very poor ▪ Because he was *indigent*, the court appointed a lawyer to defend him. ▪ The clinic provides free care for *indigent* patients.

in·di·gest·ible /ˌɪndaɪˈʤɛstəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : not capable of being used in the body as food ▪ *indigestible* carbohydrates — sometimes + *to* ▪ a substance that is *indigestible to* most mammals — often used in an exaggerated way to describe bad or unappealing food ▪ an *indigestible* meal
2 : difficult to understand : complicated or confusing ▪ Their presentation was an *indigestible* mass of information.

in·di·ges·tion /ˌɪndaɪˈʤɛstʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] : an unpleasant feeling (such as pain or a burning sensation) in your stomach or chest that is caused by difficulty in digesting food ▪ The patient complained of *indigestion* and nausea. ▪ I like spicy foods but they always give me *indigestion*. ▪ an attack of *indigestion* ▪ acid *indigestion*

in·dig·nant /ɪnˈdɪgnənt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : feeling or

showing anger because of something that is unfair or wrong : very angry ▪ She wrote an *indignant* letter to the editor. ▪ He was/got/became very *indignant* about/over the changes. ▪ an *indignant* tone of voice

– **in·dig·nant·ly** *adv* ▪ She *indignantly* [=*angrily*] denied all the accusations.

in·dig·na·tion /ˌɪndɪgˈneɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] : anger caused by something that is unfair or wrong ▪ The decision to close the factory has aroused the *indignation* of the townspeople. ▪ He adopted a tone of moral/righteous *indignation*.

in·dig·ni·ty /ɪnˈdɪgnəti/ *noun, pl* **-ties** : an act or occurrence that hurts someone's dignity or pride : an insulting or embarrassing act or occurrence [*count*] He remembers all the *indignities* he had to suffer in the early years of his career. ▪ We must endure the *indignities* of growing old. [*noncount*] He suffered the *indignity* of being forced to leave the courtroom. ▪ The *indignity* of it all was too much to bear.

in·di·go /ˈɪndɪˌgoʊ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a deep purplish-blue color — see color picture on page C2

– **indigo** *adj* ▪ an *indigo* sky

in·di·rect /ˌɪndəˈrɛkt/ *adj*

1 [*more ~; most ~*] : not direct: such as **a** : not going straight from one point to another ▪ We took an *indirect* route. ▪ These plants grow best in bright *indirect* light/sun. **b** : not said or done in a clear and direct way ▪ He gave only vague, *indirect* answers to our questions. ▪ They used *indirect* methods of investigation. ▪ There were many *indirect* references to his earlier books. ▪ Looking at her watch was her *indirect* way of telling him it was time to leave. **c** : not having a clear and direct connection ▪ Poor nutrition may have been an *indirect* cause of the disease. ▪ The cigarette stubs were *indirect* evidence that someone had been smoking in the room.

2 *grammar* : stating what an original speaker said without exactly quoting the words ▪ "He said that he would call later," is an example of *indirect* speech/discourse since his actual words were "I'll call later." ▪ an *indirect* question such as "She asked whether the doctor had arrived" ▪ an *indirect* quotation

– **in·di·rect·ly** *adv* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ He was *indirectly* involved in the robbery. ▪ The disease can be spread directly or *indirectly*. ▪ He answered our questions *indirectly*. – **in·di·rect·ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

indirect object *noun, pl* **~ -jects** [*count*] *grammar* : a noun, pronoun, or noun phrase that occurs in addition to a direct object after some verbs and indicates the person or thing that receives what is being given or done ▪ In "He gave me the book," the direct object is "book" and the *indirect object* is "me." — compare DIRECT OBJECT

in·dis·cern·ible /ˌɪndɪˈsɚnəbəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal* : impossible to see, hear, or know clearly ▪ Hidden under vines and moss, the crumbling wall was almost *indiscernible*. ▪ a change made for *indiscernible* reasons

in·dis·creet /ˌɪndɪˈskri:t/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : not having or showing good judgment : revealing things that should not be revealed : not discreet ▪ He was *indiscreet* about his love affairs. [=he told people about his love affairs when he should have kept them secret]; *also* : not polite ▪ Should I ask you how you got that bruise, or would that be *indiscreet*? [=(more commonly) *impolite, rude*] ▪ an *indiscreet* question

– **in·dis·creet·ly** *adv* ▪ He spoke *indiscreetly* about his love affairs.

in·dis·cre·tion /ˌɪndɪˈskrɛʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**

1 [*noncount*] : lack of good judgment or care in behavior and especially in speech : lack of discretion ▪ He has been criticized for showing *indiscretion* in his remarks. [=for carelessly saying things that should not be said]

2 [*count*] : an act or remark that shows a lack of good judgment : an indiscreet act or remark ▪ She committed a few minor *indiscretions*. ▪ He describes his drug use in college as just a ***youthful indiscretion***. [=a minor mistake made by a young person]

in·dis·crim·i·nate /ˌɪndɪˈskrɪmənət/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *disapproving*

1 : affecting or harming many people or things in a careless or unfair way ▪ They participated in the *indiscriminate* slaughter of countless innocent victims. ▪ He objects to the *indiscriminate* use of pesticides. ▪ an *indiscriminate* attack

2 : not careful in making choices ▪ She has been *indiscriminate* in choosing her friends.

– **in·dis·crim·i·nate·ly** *adv*

in·dis·pens·able /ˌɪndɪˈspɛnsəbəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : extremely important and necessary ▪ She is an *indispensable* [=*essential*] part of the team. ▪ an *indispensable* employee/tool — often + *for* or *to* ▪ A calculator is an *indispensable* tool *for* solving these problems. ▪ She is *indispensable to* the team.

– **in·dis·pens·abil·i·ty** /ˌɪndɪˌspɛnsəˈbɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*]

in·dis·posed /ˌɪndɪˈspoʊzd/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal*

1 : slightly ill : not feeling well ▪ He was (somewhat) *indisposed* by/with a cold. — often used as a polite way of saying that someone is sick or unable to be present without giving a specific reason ▪ He was *indisposed* and unable to attend the banquet.

2 : not willing or likely to do something — followed by *to + verb* ▪ Officials are *indisposed to grant* their request. [=officials do not want to grant their request]

in·dis·po·si·tion /ɪnˌdɪspəˈzɪʃən/ *noun, formal*

1 [*count*] : a slight illness ▪ He blamed his absence on a minor *indisposition*.

2 [*singular*] : lack of willingness to do something — followed by *to + verb* ▪ The officials have shown an *indisposition to grant* their request.

in·dis·put·able /ˌɪndɪˈspju:təbəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : impossible to question or doubt : not disputable ▪ He had *indisputable* [=*unquestionable*] proof that he had been there. ▪ Her success is *indisputable*. [=*undeniable*]

– **in·dis·put·ably** /ˌɪndɪˈspju:təbli/ *adv* ▪ an *indisputably* certain fact

in·dis·sol·u·ble /ˌɪndɪˈsɑ:ljəbəl/ *adj, formal* : impossible to destroy, break up, or get rid of ▪ an *indissoluble* contract ▪ They are bound together by/with *indissoluble* [=*permanent*] ties/bonds.

– **in·dis·sol·u·bil·i·ty** /ˌɪndɪˌsɑ:ljəˈbɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] – **in·dis·sol·u·bly** /ˌɪndɪˈsɑ:ljəbli/ *adv* ▪ They are *indissolubly* [=*permanently*] linked/connected.

in·dis·tinct /ˌɪndɪˈstɪŋkt/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : not easily seen, heard, or recognized : not distinct or clear ▪ *indistinct* figures in the fog ▪ a far-off *indistinct* light ▪ The sound was *indistinct* [=*faint*] at first, then gradually became louder.

– **in·dis·tinct·ly** *adv* ▪ Her voice could only be heard *indistinctly*. [=*faintly*] – **in·dis·tinct·ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

in·dis·tin·guish·able /ˌɪndɪˈstɪŋgwɪʃəbəl/ *adj* : unable to be recognized as different : impossible to distinguish clearly from something else ▪ The copy and the original are practically *indistinguishable*. [=*identical*] — usually + *from* ▪ The copy is practically *indistinguishable from* the original. [=the copy and the original are so similar that it is almost impossible to see any difference between them]

– **in·dis·tin·guish·ably** /ˌɪndɪˈstɪŋgwɪʃəbli/ *adv* ▪ The flavors merged *indistinguishably* together.

[1]in·di·vid·u·al /ˌɪndəˈvɪʤəwəl/ *adj*

1 *always used before a noun* : of, relating to, or existing as just one member or part of a larger group ▪ What are the *individual* traits/characteristics of the breed? ▪ The doctor carefully evaluates the *individual* needs of her patients. ▪ Students will receive as much *individual* attention as possible. ▪ The book is divided into *individual* [=*separate*] chapters. ▪ Each *individual* [=*particular*] case is different.

2 [*more ~; most ~*] : having a special and unusual quality that is easily seen ▪ She has a very *individual* style of writing. ▪ a pattern as *individual* as a fingerprint

3 *always used before a noun* : intended or designed for one person ▪ *individual* servings of dessert

– **in·di·vid·u·al·ly** *adv* ▪ Each student met *individually* [=*separately*] with the teacher. ▪ bowls *individually* crafted from wood ▪ *Individually* they don't amount to much, but as a group they're very powerful.

[2]individual *noun, pl* **-als** [*count*]

1 : a single person : a person who is considered separate from the rest of a group ▪ They promote a philosophy that sacrifices the rights of the *individual* for the public welfare.

2 : a particular person ▪ They are both rather odd *individuals*. ▪ Are you the *individual* I spoke with on the telephone? ▪ She's a very talented *individual*.

3 : a single member or part of a group ▪ The markings on tigers are unique to each *individual*.

in·di·vid·u·al·ism /ˌɪndəˈvɪʤəwəˌlɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : the belief that the needs of each person are more important than the needs of the whole society or group ▪ a society that believes strongly in *individualism*

2 : the actions or attitudes of a person who does things without being concerned about what other people will think ▪ He was respected for his self-reliance and *individualism*.

in•di•vid•u•al•ist /ˌɪndəˈvɪʤəwəlɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] : a person who does things without being concerned about what other people will think ▪ The school encourages children to be *individualists*.
– **in•di•vid•u•al•is•tic** /ˌɪndəˌvɪʤəwəˈlɪstɪk/ *also* **individualist** *adj* ▪ an *individualistic* approach to jazz music

in•di•vid•u•al•i•ty /ˌɪndəˌvɪʤəˈwæləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the quality that makes one person or thing different from all others ▪ She uses her clothing to express her *individuality*. ▪ materials that highlight the *individuality* of each piece in the collection

in•di•vid•u•al•ize *also Brit* **in•di•vid•u•al•ise** /ˌɪndəˈvɪʤəwəˌlaɪz/ *verb* **-iz•es**; **-ized**; **-iz•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to make (something) different from other things ▪ The author uses different styles to *individualize* the characters.
2 : to change (something) so that it fits each person's needs ▪ Teachers should *individualize* their lessons to address differences in their students. ▪ *individualized* computer programs
– **in•di•vid•u•al•i•za•tion** *also Brit* **in•di•vid•u•al•i•sation** /ˌɪndəˌvɪʤəwələˈzeɪʃən, *Brit* ˌɪndəˌvɪʤəwəˌlaɪˈzeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *individualization* of lesson plans

individual retirement account *noun, pl* ~ **-counts** [*count*] : IRA

in•di•vis•i•ble /ˌɪndəˈvɪzəbəl/ *adj, formal + literary* : impossible to divide or separate : not divisible ▪ an *indivisible* nation
– **in•di•vis•i•bil•i•ty** /ˌɪndəˌvɪzəˈbɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ He believes in the *indivisibility* of the mind and soul.

Indo- /ˈɪndoʊ/ *combining form* : Indian and ▪ He studies *Indo*-European languages.

in•doc•tri•nate /ɪnˈdɑːktrəˌneɪt/ *verb* **-nates**; **-nat•ed**; **-nat•ing** [+ *obj*] *disapproving* : to teach (someone) to fully accept the ideas, opinions, and beliefs of a particular group and to not consider other ideas, opinions, and beliefs ▪ The goal should be to teach politics, rather than to *indoctrinate* students in/with a narrow set of political beliefs.
– **in•doc•tri•na•tion** /ɪnˌdɑːktrəˈneɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *indoctrination* of the new recruits

In•do–Eu•ro•pe•an /ˌɪndoʊˌjurəˈpiːjən/ *adj* : of or relating to a group of languages that includes many of the languages spoken in Europe, in the parts of the world colonized by Europeans, and in parts of Asia ▪ Hindi, Polish, and English are *Indo-European* languages.

in•do•lent /ˈɪndələnt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : not liking to work or be active : LAZY ▪ an *indolent* young man ▪ She is *indolent* and irresponsible.
– **in•do•lence** /ˈɪndələns/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ Some argue that television encourages *indolence*. – **in•do•lent•ly** *adv*

in•dom•i•ta•ble /ɪnˈdɑːmətəbəl/ *adj, formal* : impossible to defeat or discourage ▪ Her spirit was *indomitable*. [=*unconquerable*] ▪ her *indomitable* courage/strength/will
– **in•dom•i•ta•bly** /ɪnˈdɑːmətəbli/ *adv* ▪ *indomitably* courageous

in•door /ˈɪnˈdoɚ/ *adj, always used before a noun* : done, living, located, or used inside a building ▪ an *indoor* sport ▪ an *indoor* pet [=a pet that only lives inside] ▪ an *indoor* pool — compare OUTDOOR

in•doors /ˈɪnˈdoɚz/ *adv* : in, inside, or into a building ▪ The game will be played *indoors*. ▪ He worked *indoors* all afternoon. ▪ We went *indoors* when it began to rain. — compare OUTDOORS

indorse, indorsement *variant spellings of* ENDORSE, ENDORSEMENT

in•du•bi•ta•ble /ɪnˈduːbətəbəl, *Brit* ɪnˈdjuːbətəbəl/ *adj, formal* : certainly true : not able to be doubted ▪ an *indubitable* truth
– **in•du•bi•ta•bly** /ɪnˈduːbətəbli, *Brit* ɪnˈdjuːbətəbli/ *adv* ▪ He was *indubitably* [=*undoubtedly*] the most capable officer on the staff.

in•duce /ɪnˈduːs, *Brit* ɪnˈdjuːs/ *verb* **-duc•es**; **-duced**; **-duc•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 *somewhat formal* : to cause (someone or something) *to do* something ▪ The advertisement is meant to *induce* people *to eat* more fruit. ▪ No one knows what *induced* him *to leave*.
2 : to cause (something) to happen or exist ▪ medication to *induce* vomiting ▪ Her illness was *induced* by overwork. ▪ drug-*induced* sleep ▪ a stress-*induced* illness
3 *medical* : to give (a pregnant woman) special medicine in order to make her give birth ▪ The mother was *induced*. : to cause (labor or birth) to begin by giving special drugs to a pregnant woman ▪ They will *induce* labor to avoid complications.
– **in•duc•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *technical* ▪ He uses the herb as a sleep *inducer*.

in•duce•ment /ɪnˈduːsmənt, *Brit* ɪnˈdjuːsmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments** *formal* : something that gives you a reason for doing something and makes you want to do it [*count*] Was his decision influenced by any illegal financial *inducements*? ▪ Employees were offered a bonus as an *inducement* to finish the project on schedule. [*noncount*] The low interest rate was little *inducement* for individuals to save money.

in•duct /ɪnˈdʌkt/ *verb* **-ducts**; **-duct•ed**; **-duct•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to have (someone) officially begin a new job, position, or government office — usually used as *(be) inducted*; usually + *into* ▪ The new president *was inducted into* office last year.
2 a : to officially make (someone) a member of a group or organization ▪ The club will *induct* six new members this year. — usually used as *(be) inducted*; usually + *into* ▪ She *was inducted into* the Basketball Hall of Fame. **b** *US* : to enroll (someone) for military training or service — usually used as *(be) inducted*; usually + *into* ▪ He *was inducted into* the army.
– **in•duct•ee** /ɪnˌdʌkˈtiː/ *noun, pl* **-ees** [*count*] *chiefly US* ▪ After the ceremony, we met the new *inductees*. [=the people who had just been inducted]

in•duc•tion /ɪnˈdʌkʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**
1 [*count*] **a** : the formal act or process of placing someone into a new job, position, government office, etc. ▪ Many people attended the bishop's *induction*. ▪ The *induction* ceremony was held at a banquet hall. **b** *US* : the formal act of making someone a member of the military ▪ the registration and *induction* of draftees
2 [*noncount*] *medical* : the act of giving a pregnant woman special drugs so that she will give birth ▪ *induction* of labor
3 [*noncount*] *technical* : a kind of reasoning that uses particular examples in order to reach a general conclusion about something
4 [*noncount*] *technical* : the process by which an electric current, an electric charge, or magnetism is produced in objects by being close to an electric or magnetic field

in•duc•tive /ɪnˈdʌktɪv/ *adj, technical* : using particular examples to reach a general conclusion about something ▪ *inductive* reasoning

in•dulge /ɪnˈdʌlʤ/ *verb* **-dulg•es**; **-dulged**; **-dulg•ing**
1 : to allow (yourself) to have or do something as a special pleasure [+ *obj*] It's my birthday. I'm going to *indulge* myself and eat whatever I want to eat. — often + *in* ▪ He *indulged* himself *in* the pleasure of a day spent entirely at the beach. [*no obj*] It's my birthday. I'm going to *indulge*. — often + *in* ▪ For our anniversary, we *indulged in* an expensive dinner.
2 [+ *obj*] **a** : to allow (someone) to have or do something even though it may not be proper, healthy, appropriate, etc. ▪ He knows that his aunt is always willing to *indulge* [=*spoil*] him. ▪ They always *indulged* their grandchildren's whims. [=they always allowed their grandchildren to do whatever they wanted to do] **b** : to patiently allow (someone) to do or say something ▪ Please *indulge* me while I review the topics we covered yesterday.
3 [+ *obj*] : to do the things that you want to do because of (a feeling, interest, desire, etc.) ▪ The museum is an excellent place to let children *indulge* their curiosity about dinosaurs. ▪ She bought a house with a big yard so that she could *indulge* her passion for gardening.
indulge in [*phrasal verb*] ***indulge in (something)*** : to become involved in (something, especially something that is considered wrong or improper) ▪ Both candidates have promised not to *indulge in* [=*take part in*] further personal attacks for the remainder of the campaign.

in•dul•gence /ɪnˈdʌlʤəns/ *noun, pl* **-genc•es**
1 [*noncount*] : the behavior or attitude of people who allow themselves to do what they want or who allow other people to do what they want ▪ She lived a life of selfish *indulgence*. ▪ They treated the sick boy with *indulgence*. = They showed great *indulgence* toward the sick boy. ▪ Ladies and gentlemen, I ask your *indulgence* [=*patience*] for a moment while my assistant prepares the next act. — see also SELF-INDULGENCE
2 [*noncount*] : the act of doing something that you enjoy but that is usually thought of as wrong or unhealthy ▪ his *indulgence* in forbidden pleasures
3 [*count*] : something that is done or enjoyed as a special pleasure ▪ She found that she couldn't afford the *indulgences* she had once enjoyed. ▪ For our anniversary we allowed ourselves the *indulgence* of an elegant dinner at our favorite res-

taurant. ▪ Good food is my only *indulgence*.

in•dul•gent /ɪn'dʌldʒənt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 *sometimes disapproving* : willing to allow someone to have or enjoy something even though it may not be proper, healthy, appropriate, etc. ▪ These children are being spoiled by (overly) *indulgent* parents. ▪ He gave the child an *indulgent* smile. — see also SELF-INDULGENT
2 : done or enjoyed as a special pleasure ▪ an *indulgent* dessert
– **in•dul•gent•ly** *adv* ▪ She smiled *indulgently*.

in•dus•tri•al /ɪn'dʌstrijəl/ *adj*
1 : of or relating to industry : of or relating to factories, the people who work in factories, or the things made in factories ▪ *industrial* development ▪ There are thousands of *industrial* uses for plastic. ▪ an *industrial* engineer ▪ He had an ***industrial accident***. [=an accident at work]
2 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having a developed industry : having factories that actively make a product ▪ an *industrial* nation/region/city
3 : coming from or used in industry : made or used in factories ▪ *industrial* diamonds ▪ an *industrial* chemical; *also* : stronger than most other products of its kind ▪ an *industrial* cleaner
– **in•dus•tri•al•ly** *adv* ▪ *industrially* made glass ▪ Most crops are grown *industrially*. [=by large corporations and not individual farmers]

industrial action *noun, pl* ~ **-tions** [*count*] *Brit* : JOB ACTION

industrial arts *noun* [*noncount*] *US* : a subject that teaches students how to work with tools and machines ▪ *Industrial arts* is her favorite class.

industrial estate *noun, pl* ~ **-tates** [*count*] *Brit* : INDUSTRIAL PARK

in•dus•tri•al•ism /ɪn'dʌstrijəˌlɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a social system in which industry and factories are the basis of a country's economy

in•dus•tri•al•ist /ɪn'dʌstrijəlɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] : someone who owns or manages an industry ▪ a meeting of *industrialists* to discuss environmental issues

in•dus•tri•al•ize *also Brit* **in•dus•tri•al•ise** /ɪn'dʌstrijəˌlaɪz/ *verb* **-iz•es**; **-ized**; **-iz•ing** : to build and operate factories and businesses in a city, region, country, etc. [+ *obj*] The government hopes to *industrialize* some of the agricultural regions. [*no obj*] This region *industrialized* [=this region gained industry] before the rest of the country.
– **in•dus•tri•al•i•za•tion** *also Brit* **in•dus•tri•al•i•sa•tion** /ɪnˌdʌstrijələ'zeɪʃən, *Brit* ɪnˌdʌstrijəˌlaɪ'zeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ The country is in the early stages of *industrialization*. – **industrialized** *also Brit* **industrialised** *adj* ▪ *industrialized* regions/nations

industrial park *noun, pl* ~ **parks** [*count*] *US* : an area outside of a town or city that is designed especially for factories or offices — called also (*Brit*) *industrial estate*

industrial relations *noun* [*plural*] : the ways in which businesses relate to and deal with workers, the government, and the public

Industrial Revolution *noun*
the Industrial Revolution : the major social and economic changes that occurred in Britain, Europe, and the U.S. in the late 18th and early 19th centuries when new machinery, new sources of power, and new ways of manufacturing products were developed

industrial–strength *adj, often humorous* : stronger, more powerful, or more intense than others of its kind ▪ She was wearing *industrial-strength* boots. ▪ He served us *industrial-strength* coffee.

in•dus•tri•ous /ɪn'dʌstrijəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : working very hard : not lazy ▪ He is an *industrious* worker.
– **in•dus•tri•ous•ly** *adv* ▪ She was working *industriously*.
– **in•dus•tri•ous•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ He was praised for his *industriousness*.

in•dus•try /'ɪndəstri/ *noun, pl* **-tries**
1 a [*noncount*] : the process of making products by using machinery and factories ▪ He favors policies that promote *industry*. **b** [*count*] : a group of businesses that provide a particular product or service ▪ the automobile/oil/computer *industry* ▪ the tourist/entertainment *industry* ▪ She invested in several large *industries*. ▪ She became so popular that a whole *industry* grew up around her and her image. — see also CAPTAIN OF INDUSTRY, COTTAGE INDUSTRY
2 [*noncount*] : the habit of working hard and steadily ▪ She is admired for her *industry*. [=*industriousness*]

ine•bri•at•ed /ɪ'ni:briˌeɪtəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : affected by drinking too much alcohol : DRUNK ▪ He was clearly *inebriated* when he left the bar.
– **ine•bri•a•tion** /ɪˌni:bri'eɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ public *inebriation* [=*drunkenness*]

in•ed•i•ble /ɪn'ɛdəbəl/ *adj* : not suitable or safe to eat : not edible ▪ *inedible* mushrooms ▪ The steak was overcooked, but not *inedible*.

in•ef•fa•ble /ɪn'ɛfəbəl/ *adj, formal* : too great, powerful, beautiful, etc., to be described or expressed ▪ She felt *ineffable* [=*inexpressible*] joy at the sight of her children. ▪ His paintings have an *ineffable* [=*indescribable*] beauty.
– **in•ef•fa•bly** /ɪn'ɛfəbli/ *adv* ▪ an *ineffably* beautiful film

in•ef•fec•tive /ˌɪnə'fɛktɪv/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not producing or having the effect you want : not effective ▪ The treatment was *ineffective* against the disease. ▪ an *ineffective* law/leader
– **in•ef•fec•tive•ly** *adv* ▪ She argued her point *ineffectively*.
– **in•ef•fec•tive•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ He has been criticized for his *ineffectiveness* as a leader.

in•ef•fec•tu•al /ˌɪnə'fɛkʧəwəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not producing or able to produce the effect you want ▪ an *ineffectual* politician ▪ an *ineffectual* struggle
– **in•ef•fec•tu•al•ly** /ˌɪnə'fɛkʧəwəli/ *adv* ▪ They struggled *ineffectually* for reform.

in•ef•fi•cien•cy /ˌɪnə'fɪʃənsi/ *noun, pl* **-cies** : the lack of ability to do something or produce something without wasting materials, time, or energy : the quality or state of being inefficient [*noncount*] The candidate blamed her opponent for the local government's *inefficiency*. [*count*] She claims that money can be saved by reducing *inefficiencies*.

in•ef•fi•cient /ˌɪnə'fɪʃənt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not capable of producing desired results without wasting materials, time, or energy : not efficient ▪ an *inefficient* worker ▪ The delivery system was very *inefficient*. ▪ an *inefficient* use of fuel
– **in•ef•fi•cient•ly** *adv* ▪ The engine uses fuel *inefficiently*.

in•el•e•gant /ɪn'ɛləgənt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *somewhat formal* : not graceful, attractive, or polite : not elegant ▪ an *inelegant* dancer ▪ *inelegant* language
– **in•el•e•gance** /ɪn'ɛləgəns/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* – **in•el•e•gant•ly** *adv* ▪ an *inelegantly* named car

in•el•i•gi•ble /ɪn'ɛləʤəbəl/ *adj* : not allowed to do or be something : not eligible ▪ Previously *ineligible* patients may now be able to participate in the study. ▪ She was *ineligible* for the contest. = She was *ineligible* to participate in the contest. ▪ They are *ineligible* for a loan.
– **in•el•i•gi•bil•i•ty** /ɪnˌɛləʤə'bɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*]

in•eluc•ta•ble /ˌɪnɪ'lʌktəbəl/ *adj, formal* : not able to be avoided or changed ▪ You cannot escape an *ineluctable* [=*unavoidable*] fate. ▪ an *ineluctable* conclusion
– **in•eluc•ta•bly** /ˌɪnɪ'lʌktəbli/ *adv*

in•ept /ɪ'nɛpt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : lacking skill or ability ▪ an *inept* mechanic ▪ He was completely *inept* at sports. ▪ a socially *inept* teenager [=a teenager who is shy or awkward around other people]
2 : showing a lack of skill or ability : not done well ▪ *inept* planning ▪ He made an *inept* attempt to apologize. — compare INAPT
– **in•ept•ly** *adv* ▪ It was *ineptly* done. – **in•ept•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *ineptness* of the coaching staff

in•ep•ti•tude /ɪ'nɛptəˌtu:d, *Brit* ɪ'nɛptəˌtju:d/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a lack of skill or ability ▪ The team's poor play is being blamed on the *ineptitude* of the coaching staff. ▪ social *ineptitude*

in•equal•i•ty /ˌɪnɪ'kwɑ:ləti/ *noun, pl* **-ties** : an unfair situation in which some people have more rights or better opportunities than other people [*noncount*] social/sexual/economic/racial *inequality* ▪ They discussed the problem of *inequality* between students. ▪ He accused the company of *inequality* in its hiring practices. [*count*] He has proposed a new system designed to remove *inequalities* in health care. ▪ the *inequalities* of education/income

in•eq•ui•ta•ble /ɪn'ɛkwətəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : not fair or equal : UNFAIR ▪ They protested the *inequitable* treatment of employees.
– **in•eq•ui•ta•bly** /ɪn'ɛkwətəbli/ *adv* ▪ The law is being applied *inequitably*. [=*unfairly*]

in•eq•ui•ty /ɪn'ɛkwəti/ *noun, pl* **-ties** *formal*
1 [*noncount*] : lack of fairness : unfair treatment ▪ She has been a leader in the fight against racial *inequity*. [=*injustice*]
2 [*count*] : something that is unfair ▪ the *inequities* in wages paid to men and women ▪ educational *inequities*

Do not confuse *inequity* with *iniquity*.

in•erad•i•ca•ble /ˌɪnɪˈrædɪkəbəl/ *adj, formal* : impossible to remove or forget ▪ an *ineradicable* problem ▪ She made an *ineradicable* impression on us.

in•ert /ɪˈnɚt/ *adj*

1 : unable to move ▪ an *inert* and lifeless body

2 [*more ~; most ~*] : moving or acting very slowly ▪ How does he propose to stimulate the *inert* economy and create jobs? ▪ a politically *inert* government

3 *chemistry* : not able to affect other chemicals when in contact with them : not chemically reactive ▪ an *inert* gas ▪ *inert* ingredients

– **in•ert•ly** *adv* ▪ He sat *inertly* in front of the television.– **in•ert•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ chemical *inertness*

in•er•tia /ɪˈnɚʃə/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 a : lack of movement or activity especially when movement or activity is wanted or needed ▪ He blames governmental/bureaucratic *inertia* for the holdup. **b** : a feeling of not having the energy or desire that is needed to move, change, etc. ▪ After 10 years in an unsatisfying job she overcame her *inertia* and went back to school.

2 *physics* : a property of matter by which something that is not moving remains still and something that is moving goes at the same speed and in the same direction until another thing or force affects it

– **in•er•tial** /ɪˈnɚʃəl/ *adj, physics* ▪ an *inertial* sensor

in•es•cap•able /ˌɪnəˈskeɪpəbəl/ *adj* : impossible to deny or avoid ▪ It's an *inescapable* truth that these problems have no easy solution. ▪ an *inescapable* conclusion

– **in•es•cap•ably** /ˌɪnəˈskeɪpəbli/ *adv* ▪ an *inescapably* obvious truth

in•es•sen•tial /ˌɪnəˈsɛnʃəl/ *adj, formal* : not needed : not essential ▪ *inessential* details

– **inessential** *noun, pl* **-tials** [*count*]

in•es•ti•ma•ble /ɪnˈɛstəməbəl/ *adj, formal* : too great, valuable, or excellent to be measured ▪ He has made *inestimable* contributions to our society. ▪ *inestimable* value/worth

in•ev•i•ta•ble /ɪˈnɛvətəbəl/ *adj* : sure to happen ▪ the *inevitable* result ▪ Some criticism was *inevitable*. [=*unavoidable*]

the inevitable : something that is sure to happen ▪ They're just trying to delay/postpone *the inevitable*.

– **in•ev•i•ta•bil•i•ty** /ɪˌnɛvətəˈbɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *inevitability* of change – **in•ev•i•ta•bly** /ɪˈnɛvətəbli/ *adv* ▪ The changes *inevitably* resulted in criticism.

in•ex•act /ˌɪnɪgˈzækt/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : not completely correct or precise : not exact ▪ The measurements were somewhat *inexact*, but they were close enough. ▪ an *inexact* word/calculation/description

– **in•ex•act•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

in•ex•cus•able /ˌɪnɪkˈskjuːzəbəl/ *adj* : too bad or wrong to be excused or ignored ▪ her *inexcusable* rudeness ▪ The mistake was *inexcusable*.

– **in•ex•cus•ably** /ˌɪnɪkˈskjuːzəbli/ *adv* ▪ The salesperson was *inexcusably* rude. ▪ He behaved *inexcusably*.

in•ex•haust•ible /ˌɪnɪgˈzɑːstəbəl/ *adj* : impossible to use up completely : impossible to exhaust ▪ The world's supply of oil is not *inexhaustible*. ▪ He seems to have *inexhaustible* energy.

– **in•ex•haust•ibly** /ˌɪnɪgˈzɑːstəbli/ *adv* ▪ We do not have an *inexhaustibly* large supply of oil.

in•ex•o•ra•ble /ɪnˈɛksərəbəl/ *adj, formal* : not able to be stopped or changed ▪ an *inexorable* conclusion ▪ the *inexorable* rise of a political movement

– **in•ex•o•ra•bi•li•ty** /ɪnˌɛksərəˈbɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] – **in•ex•o•ra•bly** /ɪnˈɛksərəbli/ *adv* ▪ We are *inexorably* linked to the past. ▪ Will a break in negotiations lead *inexorably* to conflict?

in•ex•pen•sive /ˌɪnɪkˈspɛnsɪv/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : low in price : not expensive ▪ The hotel room was surprisingly *inexpensive*. [=*cheap*] ▪ an *inexpensive* meal

– **in•ex•pen•sive•ly** *adv* ▪ Everything at that store is priced fairly *inexpensively*.

in•ex•pe•ri•ence /ˌɪnɪkˈspirijəns/ *noun* [*noncount*] : lack of experience ▪ He blames his mistakes on *inexperience*.

– **in•ex•pe•ri•enced** /ˌɪnɪkˈspirijənst/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ She's an *inexperienced* driver.

in•ex•pert /ɪnˈɛkspɚt/ *adj, formal* : not skillful at doing something ▪ an *inexpert* tailor ▪ The painting looks to be fake to my *inexpert* [=*untrained*] eye.

– **in•ex•pert•ly** *adv* ▪ It was *inexpertly* painted.

in•ex•pli•ca•ble /ˌɪnɪkˈsplɪkəbəl, ɪnˈɛksplɪkəbəl/ *adj* : not able to be explained or understood ▪ an *inexplicable* mystery ▪ He had a series of seemingly *inexplicable* accidents.

– **in•ex•pli•ca•bly** /ˌɪnɪkˈsplɪkəbli, ɪnˈɛksplɪkəbli/ *adv* ▪ The files have *inexplicably* disappeared.

in•ex•press•ible /ˌɪnɪkˈsprɛsəbəl/ *adj, somewhat formal* : too strong or great to be expressed or described ▪ *inexpressible* joy/pain

– **in•ex•press•ibly** /ˌɪnɪkˈsprɛsəbli/ *adv* ▪ an *inexpressibly* sad story

in ex•tre•mis /ˌɪnɪkˈstriːməs/ *adv, formal*

1 : at the point of death ▪ a patient *in extremis*

2 : in a very difficult situation ▪ They are helping a family *in extremis*.

in•ex•tri•ca•ble /ˌɪnɪkˈstrɪkəbəl, ɪnˈɛkstrɪkəbəl/ *adj, formal* : impossible to separate : closely joined or related ▪ He argues that there is an *inextricable* link between poverty and poor health.

– **in•ex•tri•ca•bly** /ˌɪnɪkˈstrɪkəbli, ɪnˈɛkstrɪkəbli/ *adv* ▪ He claims poverty is *inextricably* linked to poor health. ▪ Our lives are bound *inextricably* with others.

in•fal•li•ble /ɪnˈfæləbəl/ *adj*

1 : not capable of being wrong or making mistakes : not fallible ▪ I never claimed to be *infallible*. ▪ an *infallible* memory

2 : certain to work properly or succeed ▪ There is no *infallible* remedy to these problems.

– **in•fal•li•bil•i•ty** /ɪnˌfælәˈbɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ I never made any claims of *infallibility*.— see also PAPAL INFALLIBILITY – **in•fal•li•bly** /ɪnˈfæləbli/ *adv* ▪ The computer program can *infallibly* identify each type of file.

in•fa•mous /ˈɪnfəməs/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]

1 : well-known for being bad : known for evil acts or crimes ▪ an *infamous* traitor ▪ a city *infamous* for poverty and crime

2 : causing people to think you are bad or evil ▪ He committed an *infamous* crime. ▪ (*humorous*) We experienced some of the city's *infamous* weather.

– **in•fa•mous•ly** *adv* ▪ an *infamously* shocking crime

in•fa•my /ˈɪnfəmi/ *noun, pl* **-mies**

1 [*noncount*] : the condition of being known for having done bad things or for being evil ▪ He never escaped the *infamy* his crimes had earned him. ▪ a day of *infamy* [=an infamous day; a day on which something very bad happened]

2 [*count*] *formal* : an evil or terrible act — usually plural ▪ The book recounts the *infamies* committed by the regime.

in•fan•cy /ˈɪnfənsi/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : the first part of a child's life : the time in your life when you are a baby ▪ She was often sick during her *infancy*. ▪ a skill developed ***in infancy***

2 : a beginning : an early stage of development ▪ She has been a member of the church since its *infancy*. ▪ when the Internet was still ***in its infancy*** [=very new]

[1]in•fant /ˈɪnfənt/ *noun, pl* **-fants** [*count*] : a very young child : BABY ▪ The *infant* was healthy. ▪ a study of health problems that can affect young *infants* ▪ He showed us a picture of his *infant* daughter.

[2]infant *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : made or suitable for babies ▪ *infant* formula ▪ an *infant* bathtub

2 *Brit* : of, relating to, or for children between the ages of about four and seven ▪ children attending ***infant school*** [=a school for young children] ▪ She is an ***infant teacher***.

3 : very new and still developing ▪ our *infant* steel industry ▪ an *infant* navy

in•fan•ti•cide /ɪnˈfæntəˌsaɪd/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the act of killing a baby

in•fan•tile /ˈɪnfənˌtajəl/ *adj*

1 [*more ~; most ~*] *disapproving* : annoying and childish : very silly in a way that is not appropriate or polite ▪ His behavior was *infantile*. ▪ *infantile* jokes

2 *always used before a noun, medical* : affecting babies or very young children ▪ *infantile* diseases

infantile paralysis *noun* [*noncount*] *old-fashioned* : POLIO

in•fan•try /ˈɪnfəntri/ *noun* : the part of an army that has soldiers who fight on foot [*noncount*] He joined the *infantry* after leaving school. ▪ The *infantry* is coming. [*plural*] The *infantry* are coming.— compare CAVALRY

in•fan•try•man /ˈɪnfəntrimən/ *noun, pl* **-men** /-mən/ [*count*] : a soldier who is in the infantry

in•fat•u•ated /ɪnˈfætʃəˌweɪtəd/ *adj* : filled with foolish or very strong love or admiration — usually + *with* ▪ He was *infatuated with* his teacher. ▪ She became *infatuated with* the charms of city life.

in•fat•u•a•tion /ɪnˌfætʃəˈweɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** : a feeling

of foolish or very strong love or admiration for someone or something [*noncount*] The attraction he felt for her was just *infatuation*, not true love. ▪ They condemn society's *infatuation* with Hollywood. [*count*] It was just an *infatuation*. ▪ She had a series of frivolous *infatuations* with younger men.

in•fect /ɪn'fɛkt/ *verb* **-fects**; **-fect•ed**; **-fect•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to cause (someone or something) to become sick or affected by disease ▪ If you're sick you should stay home to avoid *infecting* other people in the office. ▪ The virus has *infected* many people. ▪ They were unable to prevent bacteria from *infecting* the wound. — often used as *(be) infected* ▪ He *was infected* by a coworker. ▪ He *was infected* with AIDS.

2 a : to cause (someone) to feel an emotion — usually + *with* ▪ She has *infected* everyone *with* her enthusiasm. [=her enthusiasm has made other people feel enthusiastic too] **b** *of an emotion* : to spread to (other people) ▪ Her enthusiasm has *infected* everyone.

3 *of a computer virus* : to cause (a computer or computer file) to stop working as it should ▪ The virus has *infected* many computers. ▪ All the computers in the office were *infected* by/with the same virus.

infected *adj*

1 a : containing germs that cause disease ▪ an *infected* wound **b** : having a disease caused by germs ▪ *infected* children

2 : affected by a computer virus ▪ an *infected* file/computer

in•fec•tion /ɪn'fɛkʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**

1 [*noncount*] : the act or process of infecting someone or something : the state of being infected ▪ Poor hygiene can increase the danger of *infection*. ▪ The wound has so far remained free of *infection*. ▪ steps you can take to decrease your computer's risk of *infection*

2 [*count*] : a disease caused by germs that enter the body ▪ viral/bacterial *infections* ▪ a painful ear *infection*

in•fec•tious /ɪn'fɛkʃəs/ *adj*

1 a : capable of causing infection ▪ viruses and other *infectious* agents **b** [*more ~; most ~*] : capable of being passed to someone else by germs that enter the body ▪ an acute *infectious* illness ▪ a highly *infectious* disease — compare CONTAGIOUS **c** : suffering from a disease that can be spread to other people by germs ▪ an *infectious* patient

2 [*more ~; most ~*] : capable of being easily spread to other people ▪ Their enthusiasm was *infectious*. [=*contagious*] ▪ She has an *infectious* grin. ▪ *infectious* laughter

– **in•fec•tious•ly** *adv* ▪ *infectiously* cheerful/enthusiastic

in•fer /ɪn'fɚ/ *verb* **-fers**; **-ferred**; **-fer•ring** [+ *obj*]

1 : to form (an opinion) from evidence : to reach (a conclusion) based on known facts ▪ It's difficult to *infer* how these changes will affect ordinary citizens. — often + *from* ▪ She said she was pleased, but her true feelings could be *inferred from* the look of disappointment on her face. — often + *that* ▪ I *inferred from* his silence *that* he was angry about my decision. — compare IMPLY

2 *informal* : to hint or suggest (something) : IMPLY ▪ Are you *inferring* that I'm wrong? ✧ Many people regard this use of *infer* as an error, but it occurs commonly in spoken English.

in•fer•ence /'ɪnfərəns/ *noun, pl* **-enc•es**

1 [*noncount*] : the act or process of reaching a conclusion about something from known facts or evidence ▪ Its existence is only known ***by inference***

2 [*count*] : a conclusion or opinion that is formed because of known facts or evidence ▪ The program uses records of past purchases to make/draw *inferences* about what customers will buy in the future. ▪ What *inference* can we draw from these facts?

[1]in•fe•ri•or /ɪn'firijɚ/ *adj*

1 : of poor quality : low or lower in quality ▪ *inferior* goods/materials/products ▪ an *inferior* performer/performance ▪ These pearls are of *inferior* quality. — often + *to* ▪ These pearls are *inferior* (in quality) *to* others I have seen.

2 : of little or less importance or value ▪ They were considered a socially *inferior* group. ▪ He always felt *inferior* around his brother. — often + *to* ▪ He always felt *inferior to* his brother.

3 : low or lower in rank ▪ The judges voted to overturn a ruling made by an *inferior* court.

– **in•fe•ri•or•i•ty** /ɪnˌfiri'ɔrəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *inferiority* of the cheaper materials ▪ He had a sense of social *inferiority* among wealthy people.

[2]inferior *noun, pl* **-ors** [*count*] : a person of low rank or status ▪ She treated her employees as social *inferiors*.

inferiority complex *noun, pl* ~ **-plexes** [*count*] : a belief that you are less worthy or important than other people ▪ His shyness is the result of an *inferiority complex*.

in•fer•nal /ɪn'fɚnl̩/ *adj, always used before a noun*

1 *literary* : of or relating to hell ▪ the *infernal* regions of the dead

2 *informal + old-fashioned* : very bad or unpleasant ▪ Stop making that *infernal* racket! ▪ an *infernal* nuisance/pest

– **in•fer•nal•ly** /ɪn'fɚnl̩i/ *adv* ▪ an *infernally* [=*extremely*] difficult problem

in•fer•no /ɪn'fɚnoʊ/ *noun, pl* **-nos** [*count*] : a very large and dangerous fire ▪ By the time help arrived, the fire had grown to a raging *inferno*.

in•fer•tile /ɪn'fɚtl̩/ *adj* : not fertile: such as **a** : not able to reproduce : not able to produce children, young animals, etc. ▪ *infertile* married couples ▪ an *infertile* man/woman **b** : not suited for raising crops : unable to support the growth of plants ▪ *infertile* soil ▪ *infertile* land/fields

– **in•fer•til•i•ty** /ɪnˌfɚ'tɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ male/female *infertility* ▪ the *infertility* of the land

in•fest /ɪn'fɛst/ *verb* **-fests**; **-fest•ed**; **-fest•ing** [+ *obj*] *of something harmful or unwanted* : to be in or over (a place, an animal, etc.) in large numbers ▪ Lice *infested* his scalp. — often used as *(be) infested* ▪ The area *was infested* with snakes/insects. [=there was a very large number of snake/insects in the area] ▪ The trees *were infested* by/with caterpillars. ▪ a neighborhood *infested* with crime ▪ shark-*infested* waters

– **in•fes•ta•tion** /ˌɪnˌfɛ'steɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*] an *infestation* of caterpillars [*noncount*] There were signs of insect *infestation*.

in•fi•del /'ɪnfədl̩/ *noun, pl* **-dels** [*count*] *disapproving* : a person who does not believe in a religion that someone regards as the true religion ▪ a holy war against the *infidels*

in•fi•del•i•ty /ˌɪnfə'dɛləti/ *noun, pl* **-ties** : the act or fact of having a romantic or sexual relationship with someone other than your husband, wife, or partner [*noncount*] She was convinced that her husband was guilty of *infidelity*. [*count*] He has admitted to a number of marital *infidelities*.

in•field /'ɪnˌfi:ld/ *noun, pl* **-fields** [*count*]

1 a : the part of a baseball field that includes the area within and around the three bases and home plate ▪ He threw the ball across the *infield*. — often used before another noun ▪ an *infield* grounder ▪ an *infield* hit **b** : the part of a cricket field that is close to the wickets **c** : the players who are positioned in the infield ▪ The team has one of the best *infields* in the league. — compare OUTFIELD

2 *chiefly US* : the area that a racetrack or running track goes around : the area inside a track

– **in•field•er** /'ɪnˌfi:ldɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *US* ▪ a skillful *infielder* [=a baseball player who plays in the infield]

in•fight•ing /'ɪnˌfaɪtɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : fighting or disagreement among the members of a group or organization ▪ political *infighting*

in•fil•trate /ɪn'fɪlˌtreɪt, 'ɪnfɪlˌtreɪt/ *verb* **-trates**; **-trat•ed**; **-trat•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 a : to secretly enter or join (something, such as a group or an organization) in order to get information or do harm ▪ The gang was *infiltrated* by undercover agents. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ An attitude of cynicism has *infiltrated* the staff. [=the staff has become cynical] **b** : to cause (someone) to secretly enter or join a group, organization, etc. ▪ Attempts to *infiltrate* undercover agents into the gang have failed.

2 *technical* : to pass into or through (something) ▪ Water can easily *infiltrate* the soil.

– **in•fil•tra•tion** /ˌɪnfɪl'treɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *infiltration* of undercover agents into the gang – **in•fil•tra•tor** /ɪn'fɪlˌtreɪtɚ, 'ɪnfɪlˌtreɪtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*] ▪ The gang discovered an *infiltrator* among its members.

in•fi•nite /'ɪnfənət/ *adj*

1 : having no limits : ENDLESS ▪ *infinite* space ▪ an *infinite* series of numbers

2 : extremely large or great ▪ She has *infinite* patience when she's dealing with children. ▪ There seemed to be an *infinite* number of possibilities. ▪ an *infinite* variety of choices

– **in•fi•nite•ly** *adv* ▪ The universe is *infinitely* large. ▪ *infinitely* subtle variations ▪ an *infinitely* large number

in•fin•i•tes•i•mal /ɪnˌfɪnə'tɛsəməl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : extremely small ▪ an *infinitesimal* moment in time ▪ an *infinitesimal* difference

– **in•fin•i•tes•i•mal•ly** /ɪnˌfɪnə'tɛsəməli/ *adv* ▪ an *infinitesimally* small difference

in•fin•i•tive /ɪn'fɪnətɪv/ *noun, pl* **-tives** [*count*] *grammar*

: the basic form of a verb ✧ In English the infinitive form of a verb is usually used with *to* ("I asked him *to go*") except with modal verbs like *should* and *could* ("He should *go*") and certain other verbs like *see* and *hear* ("I saw him *go*"). — see also SPLIT INFINITIVE

– **infinitive** *adj* ▪ an *infinitive* clause/form/phrase

in•fin•i•ty /ɪn'fɪnəti/ *noun*

1 [*noncount*] **a** : the quality of having no limits or end : the quality of being infinite ▪ the *infinity* of space **b** : a space, amount, or period of time that has no limits or end ▪ The view tapers off into *infinity*. ▪ a series of numbers that continues to *infinity*

2 [*singular*] : a very great number or amount ▪ The night sky was filled with an *infinity* of stars. ▪ an *infinity* of choices

in•firm /ɪn'fɚm/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having a condition of weakness or illness that usually lasts for a long time and is caused especially by old age ▪ The clinic provides free care for elderly and *infirm* people who lack health insurance. ▪ mentally and physically *infirm*

the infirm : people who are weak, ill, etc. : infirm people ▪ providing care for the elderly and *the infirm*

in•fir•ma•ry /ɪn'fɚməri/ *noun, pl* **-ries** [*count*]

1 : a place where sick people stay and are cared for in a school, prison, summer camp, etc. ▪ One of the students became ill and was sent to the *infirmary*.

2 *Brit* : HOSPITAL — used especially in names ▪ the Edinburgh Royal *Infirmary*

in•fir•mi•ty /ɪn'fɚməti/ *noun, pl* **-ties**

1 [*noncount*] : the quality or state of being weak or ill especially because of old age ▪ In recent years she has had to reduce her schedule because of age and *infirmity*.

2 [*count*] : a disease or illness that usually lasts for a long time ▪ the *infirmities* of old age

in•flame /ɪn'fleɪm/ *verb* **-flames**; **-flamed**; **-flam•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 a : to cause (a person or group) to become angry or violent ▪ His angry speech *inflamed* the mob. **b** : to make (something) more active, angry, or violent ▪ ideas that *inflame* the imagination ▪ His comments have *inflamed* an already tense situation. ▪ *inflaming* the passions of the mob

2 : to cause (a part of your body) to grow sore, red, and swollen ▪ a chemical that can *inflame* the skin

inflamed *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *of a part of your body* : sore, red, and swollen from disease, injury, etc. ▪ an *inflamed* appendix ▪ *inflamed* skin

in•flam•ma•ble /ɪn'flæməbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : capable of being set on fire and of burning quickly : FLAMMABLE ▪ highly *inflammable* chemicals

2 : easily excited or angered ▪ an *inflammable* temper

in•flam•ma•tion /ˌɪnflə'meɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** : a condition in which a part of your body becomes red, swollen, and painful [*noncount*] The drug is used to reduce *inflammation*. [*count*] a chronic *inflammation* ▪ *inflammations* of the throat and ears

in•flam•ma•to•ry /ɪn'flæməˌtori, *Brit* ɪn'flæmətri/ *adj*

1 *medical* : causing or having inflammation ▪ *inflammatory* diseases ▪ chronic *inflammatory* conditions ▪ She had an acute *inflammatory* reaction to the drug. — compare ANTI-INFLAMMATORY

2 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : causing anger ▪ He incited the mob with an *inflammatory* speech. ▪ *inflammatory* remarks/language

in•flate /ɪn'fleɪt/ *verb* **-flates**; **-flat•ed**; **-flat•ing**

1 a [+ *obj*] : to add air or gas to (something, such as a tire or a balloon) and make it larger ▪ We used a pump to *inflate* the raft. ▪ *inflate* [=*blow up*] a balloon **b** [*no obj*] : to become larger by being filled with air or gas ▪ The balloon slowly *inflated*. — opposite DEFLATE

2 [+ *obj*] **a** : to think or say that (something) is larger or more important than it really is ▪ His memoirs *inflate* [=*exaggerate*] his contributions to the war effort. **b** : to cause (a person's ego, reputation, etc.) to become too large or great ▪ All the publicity was *inflating* his ego. [=was making him too proud and conceited]

3 : to increase prices, costs, etc., in a way that is not normal or expected [+ *obj*] Economists warn that rapid economic growth could *inflate* prices. ▪ Increased competition has *inflated* salaries among professional athletes. [*no obj*] Rapid economic growth may cause prices to *inflate*.

– **in•flat•able** /ɪn'fleɪtəbəl/ *adj* ▪ an *inflatable* raft

inflated *adj*

1 : filled and made larger with air or gas ▪ an *inflated* balloon/raft

2 a : too large or high ▪ He has an *inflated* opinion of his value to the company. [=he thinks he is more valuable than he really is] ▪ He has an *inflated* ego. [=he has an overly high opinion of himself] ▪ a writer with an *inflated* reputation ▪ *inflated* [=*exaggerated*] claims of greatness **b** *of language* : too serious or fancy ▪ an *inflated* style of writing ▪ *inflated* [=*overblown*] language

3 *of prices, wages, etc.* : too high : increased to a level that is not normal or proper ▪ She objects to the *inflated* salaries that many professional athletes now receive. ▪ *inflated* prices

in•fla•tion /ɪn'fleɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : an act of inflating something ▪ the *inflation* of a balloon : the state of being inflated ▪ It's important to maintain proper tire *inflation*. [=*pressure*]

2 : a continual increase in the price of goods and services ▪ The government has been unable to control/reduce/curb *inflation*. ▪ The rate of *inflation* is high/low/rising. ▪ The annual *inflation* rate is three percent. [=prices are rising three percent each year] ▪ economic *inflation*

in•fla•tion•ary /ɪn'fleɪʃəˌneri, *Brit* ɪn'fleɪʃənri/ *adj*

1 : of or relating to economic inflation ▪ *inflationary* theories ▪ *inflationary* increases

2 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : causing, experiencing, or affected by economic inflation : causing, experiencing, or affected by rising prices ▪ He blames the bad economy on the government's *inflationary* policies. ▪ *inflationary* pressures ▪ an *inflationary* environment/period

in•flect /ɪn'flɛkt/ *verb* **-flects**; **-flect•ed**; **-flect•ing** *grammar* : to change the form of a word when using it in a particular way [+ *obj*] Most nouns in English are *inflected* for plural use by adding "-s" or "-es." [*no obj*] Most nouns in English *inflect* for plural use by adding "-s" or "-es." ▪ Most adjectives in English do not *inflect* for gender or number.

– **inflected** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ Some languages are more (highly) *inflected* than others. [=the words in some languages change their forms for different uses more than the words in other languages] ▪ "Gone" and "went" are ***inflected forms*** of the verb "go."

in•flec•tion *also Brit* **in•flex•ion** /ɪn'flɛkʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**

1 : a rise or fall in the sound of a person's voice : a change in the pitch or tone of a person's voice [*noncount*] She spoke with no *inflection*. [*count*] She read the lines with an upward/rising *inflection*. ▪ vocal *inflections*

2 *grammar* **a** [*noncount*] : a change in the form of a word that occurs when it has a particular use ▪ Most English adjectives do not require *inflection*. **b** [*count*] : a form of a word that occurs when it has a particular use : an inflected form ▪ "Gone" and "went" are *inflections* of the verb "go." **c** [*count*] : a part of a word (such as a suffix) that is used to change a word's form for a particular use ▪ English has fewer *inflections* than many other languages.

– **in•flec•tion•al** *also Brit* **in•flex•ion•al** /ɪn'flɛkʃənl/ *adj* ▪ *inflectional* rules/forms

in•flex•i•ble /ɪn'flɛksəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not flexible: such as **a** : not easily influenced or persuaded ▪ an *inflexible* judge **b** : not easily bent or twisted ▪ *inflexible* [=*stiff*] plastic **c** : not easily changed ▪ *inflexible* laws/rules ▪ an *inflexible* deadline/schedule

– **in•flex•i•bil•i•ty** /ɪnˌflɛksə'bɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *inflexibility* of the schedule – **in•flex•i•bly** /ɪn'flɛksəbli/ *adv*

in•flict /ɪn'flɪkt/ *verb* **-flicts**; **-flict•ed**; **-flict•ing** [+ *obj*] : to cause someone to experience or be affected by (something unpleasant or harmful) ▪ These insects are capable of *inflicting* a painful sting. ▪ *inflict* a wound ▪ *inflict* pain/injury/punishment/damage — often + *on* or *upon* ▪ He shows no regret for the suffering he has *inflicted on/upon* these innocent people. ▪ They continue to *inflict* their strange ideas about nutrition *on/upon* their children.

– **in•flic•tion** /ɪn'flɪkʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *infliction* of a knife wound ▪ the *infliction* of pain/guilt/humiliation

in–flight /'ɪn'flaɪt/ *adj, always used before a noun* : made, done, or provided while you are flying in an airplane ▪ an *in-flight* meal/movie

in•flow /'ɪnˌfloʊ/ *noun, pl* **-flows** : a flow or movement of something into a place, organization, etc. [*count*] The campaign has seen a massive *inflow* of funds/money/cash in recent months. [*noncount*] The vents provide improved *inflow* of air/water. — opposite OUTFLOW

[1]in•flu•ence /'ɪnˌfluːwəns/ *noun, pl* **-enc•es**

1 : the power to change or affect someone or something

: the power to cause changes without directly forcing them to happen [*noncount*] Recent years have seen a decline in the company's *influence* within the industry. ▪ Her ideas have gradually gained *influence* in the company. ▪ He used/wielded his *influence* to reform the company's policies. ▪ She was ***under the influence*** of drugs. [=she was affected by drugs] ▪ He came *under the influence* of new ideas [=he was influenced by new ideas] when he went away to college. ▪ She has remained *under the influence* of her parents. — often + *on, upon*, or *over* ▪ She claims that her personal problems played/had no/little *influence upon* her decision to resign. ▪ His health problems may have had some *influence on* his decision. ▪ Her parents still have a great deal of *influence over* her. ▪ The chairman wields considerable *influence over* the board's decisions. [*singular*] Her parents are concerned that her new friends may have a bad *influence on* her. ▪ Emily Dickinson has had a major *influence on* his poetry. ▪ His health problems had a big *influence on* his decision. ▪ They exert a strong cultural/economic *influence over* their neighbors in the region.

2 [*count*] : a person or thing that affects someone or something in an important way ▪ My parents have been major *influences* in my life. ▪ Emily Dickinson has been a major *influence* on his poetry. ▪ Her parents are concerned that her new friends may be a bad *influence* on her. ▪ The decision was affected by outside *influences*.

under the influence : affected by alcohol : DRUNK ▪ He was arrested for driving *under the influence*.

²influence *verb* **-ences**; **-enced**; **-enc•ing** [+ *obj*] : to affect or change (someone or something) in an indirect but usually important way : to have an influence on (someone or something) ▪ I was deeply/greatly *influenced* by my parents. ▪ She claims that her decision to resign was not *influenced* by her personal problems. ▪ No one knows how this decision will *influence* the outcome of the election. ▪ He's accused of illegally attempting to *influence* the jury. — sometimes followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ No one knows what may have *influenced* them *to commit* these crimes.

in•flu•en•tial /ˌɪnfluˈɛnʃəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having the power to cause changes : having influence ▪ She became an (enormously/extremely) *influential* critic/writer. ▪ a highly/very *influential* book ▪ His theories have become more *influential* in recent years. ▪ My parents have been the most *influential* people in my life. — sometimes + *in* ▪ She has been *influential in* establishing programs to help the poor.
– **in•flu•en•tial•ly** /ˌɪnfluˈɛnʃəli/ *adv*

in•flu•en•za /ˌɪnfluˈɛnzə/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : a common illness that is caused by a virus and that causes fever, weakness, severe aches and pains, and breathing problems ▪ patients suffering from *influenza* [=*the flu*]

in•flux /ˈɪnˌflʌks/ *noun, pl* **-flux•es** [*count*]
1 : the arrival of a large number of people ▪ The city is preparing for a large *influx* of tourists this summer.
2 : the arrival or inward flow of a large amount of something (such as money) ▪ The company has had a sudden *influx* of capital.

in•fo /ˈɪnfoʊ/ *noun* [*noncount*] *informal* : INFORMATION ▪ It contains a surprising amount of *info* for such a little book.

in•fo•mer•cial /ˈɪnfoʊˌmɚʃəl/ *noun, pl* **-cials** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a television program that is a long advertisement and that usually includes people talking about and using the product that is being sold

in•form /ɪnˈfoɚm/ *verb* **-forms**; **-formed**; **-form•ing**
1 : to give information to (someone) [+ *obj*] The book will entertain and *inform* you. ▪ The arresting officer failed to *inform* the suspect of his rights. ▪ He failed to *inform* the suspect that he had the right to remain silent. ▪ We haven't yet been *informed* of/about her decision. ▪ Frequent reports from the battlefield kept the general *informed* about how the attack was progressing. ▪ I am sorry to have to *inform* [=*tell*] you that your flight has been delayed. [*no obj*] The book will both entertain and *inform*.
2 [+ *obj*] *formal* : to be or provide the essential quality of (something) : to be very noticeable in (something) ▪ His Catholic upbringing *informs* all his writing.
inform on *also* ***inform against*** [*phrasal verb*] ***inform on/against (someone)*** : to give information about the secret or criminal activity of (someone) to the police ▪ Despite pressure from the police he refused to *inform on* the other conspirators.

in•for•mal /ɪnˈfoɚməl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not formal: such as **a** : having a friendly and relaxed quality ▪ an *informal* party ▪ We had an *informal* meeting over lunch. ▪ an *informal* conversation ▪ an *informal* writing style ▪ He has an *informal* manner that puts people at ease. **b** : suited for ordinary use when you are relaxing ▪ *informal* clothes ▪ an *informal* dining area **c** *of language* : relaxed in tone : not suited for serious or official speech and writing ▪ He spoke to them in *informal* Spanish/English. ▪ The term is common in *informal* contexts. ▪ *informal* language/speech/writing ▪ an *informal* word **d** : done in a way that is not especially careful or scientific ▪ He took an *informal* poll/survey among his coworkers.
– **in•for•mal•i•ty** /ɪnˌfoɚˈmæləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ She liked the easy/casual *informality* of his manner. – **in•for•mal•ly** /ɪnˈfoɚməli/ *adv* ▪ We met to discuss the situation *informally*. ▪ speak/write *informally* ▪ The word is used *informally* in this sense. ▪ She was *informally* dressed in blue jeans.

in•for•mant /ɪnˈfoɚmənt/ *noun, pl* **-mants** [*count*]
1 : a person who gives information to the police about secret or criminal activities : INFORMER ▪ The police were alerted to the plot by a paid *informant*.
2 *technical* : a person who gives information about his or her culture or language to a researcher ▪ We learned the language with the help of a native *informant*.

in•for•ma•tion /ˌɪnfɚˈmeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : knowledge that you get about someone or something : facts or details about a subject ▪ They're working to collect/gather *information* about the early settlers in the region. ▪ The pamphlet provides a lot of *information* on/about/concerning recent changes to the tax laws. ▪ detailed/specific *information* ▪ He gave the police false/misleading *information* about his background. ▪ The conference will give us an opportunity to exchange/share *information* with other researchers. ▪ We can't make a decision until we have more/further/additional *information*. ▪ The tests have not yet uncovered any new *information*. ▪ I don't like having to reveal personal/private *information* when I fill in a job application. ▪ He's accused of withholding useful/valuable/vital *information*. ▪ ***My information is*** [=I have been told, I understand] that he will be arriving early this evening. ▪ We enclose a price list ***for your information***. [=to provide you with information that we think will interest you] ✧ The phrase *for your information* is sometimes used informally in speech when responding to an annoying statement or question by someone who has accused or blamed you wrongly. ▪ "Are these the best tickets you could get?" "*For your information*, I had to stand in line for two hours to get these!"
2 *US* : a service that telephone users can call to find out the telephone number for a specified person or organization : DIRECTORY ASSISTANCE ▪ I couldn't remember his number so I had to call *information*.
– **in•for•ma•tion•al** /ˌɪnfɚˈmeɪʃənl/ *adj* ▪ an *informational* brochure ▪ *informational* books

information superhighway *noun*
the information superhighway : the Internet ▪ He claims he can find out anything he needs to know on *the information superhighway*.

in•for•ma•tive /ɪnˈfoɚmətɪv/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : providing information ▪ a highly/very/most *informative* book

in•formed /ɪnˈfoɚmd/ *adj*
1 : having information ▪ *Informed* sources told us of the new policy. ▪ fully *informed* citizens/consumers/voters ▪ Please keep me *informed* on any changes. [=please tell me about any changes when they happen]
2 : based on information ▪ We need to spend more time researching our options so that we can make an *informed* choice/decision. — see also *informed guess* at ²GUESS

informed consent *noun* [*singular*] *medical* : a formal agreement that a patient signs to give permission for a medical procedure (such as surgery) after having been told about the risks, benefits, etc.

in•form•er /ɪnˈfoɚmɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a person who gives information to the police about secret or criminal activities ▪ He worked for the police/government as a paid *informer*. [=*informant*]

in•fo•tain•ment /ˌɪnfoʊˈteɪnmənt/ *noun* [*noncount*] : television programs that present information (such as news) in a way that is meant to be entertaining

in•frac•tion /ɪnˈfrækʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*] *formal* : an act that breaks a rule or law : VIOLATION ▪ He was penalized for an *infraction* of the rules. = He was penalized for a rules *infraction*. ▪ a minor ***traffic infraction***

in•fra dig /ˈɪnfrəˈdɪg/ *adj, chiefly Brit* : not appropriate for a person's social position : beneath someone's dignity ▪ Isn't it a bit *infra dig* to go to a launderette when you can afford a washing machine of your own?

in•fra•red /ˌɪnfrəˈrɛd/ *adj, technical* : producing or using rays of light that cannot be seen and that are longer than rays that produce red light ▪ *infrared* radiation/beams ▪ *infrared* photography

in•fra•struc•ture /ˈɪnfrəˌstrʌkʧɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tures** : the basic equipment and structures (such as roads and bridges) that are needed for a country, region, or organization to function properly [*noncount*] More money is needed to save the crumbling *infrastructure* of the nation's rural areas. ▪ We need to spend more money on maintaining and repairing *infrastructure*. [*count*] town/city *infrastructures*
– **in•fra•struc•tur•al** /ˈɪnfrəˌstrʌkʧərəl/ *adj* ▪ *infrastructural* maintenance and repair

in•fre•quent /ɪnˈfriːkwənt/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : not happening often : not frequent ▪ an *infrequent* event ▪ We made *infrequent* stops/visits along the way. ▪ Problems with the network have become a ***not infrequent*** occurrence. [=have become a rather frequent occurrence]
– **infrequency** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ She complained about the *infrequency* of her son's visits. [=she complained because her son did not visit her often] – **in•fre•quent•ly** *adv* ▪ a word that is *infrequently* used ▪ an error ***not infrequently*** made [=an error rather frequently made] by beginners

in•fringe /ɪnˈfrɪnʤ/ *verb* **-fring•es**; **-fringed**; **-fring•ing**
1 : to do something that does not obey or follow (a rule, law, etc.) [+ *obj*] *infringe* [=*violate*] a treaty/patent ▪ They claim that his use of the name *infringes* their copyright. [*no obj*] (*chiefly US*) — + *on* or *upon* ▪ They claim that his use of the name *infringes on* their copyright.
2 : to wrongly limit or restrict (something, such as another person's rights) [+ *obj*] Her rights must not be *infringed*. [*no obj*] — + *on* or *upon* ▪ He argues that the proposed law *infringes upon* our guaranteed right of free speech.
– **in•fringe•ment** /ɪnˈfrɪnʤmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments** [*count*] repeated *infringements* of our rights [*noncount*] He faces charges of copyright *infringement*. – **in•fring•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ a copyright *infringer*

in•fu•ri•ate /ɪnˈfjɚriˌeɪt/ *verb* **-ates**; **-at•ed**; **-at•ing** [+ *obj*] : to make (someone) very angry : to make (someone) furious ▪ His arrogance *infuriates* me! = It *infuriates* me that he is so arrogant! ▪ I was *infuriated* by his arrogance.
– **infuriated** *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ The sales clerk was being shouted at by an *infuriated* customer. – **infuriating** *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ He has an *infuriating* habit of ignoring me. – **in•fu•ri•at•ing•ly** /ɪnˈfjɚriˌeɪtɪŋli/ *adv* ▪ an *infuriatingly* arrogant man

in•fuse /ɪnˈfjuːz/ *verb* **-fus•es**; **-fused**; **-fus•ing**
1 [+ *obj*] **a** : to cause (a person or thing) to be filled with something (such as a quality) ▪ She has *infused* her followers with confidence. **b** : to cause (something, such as a quality) to be added or introduced into a person or thing ▪ He has found ways to *infuse* new energy into his performances. ▪ She has *infused* confidence into her followers. ▪ His work is *infused* with anger.
2 : to allow something (such as tea or herbs) to stay in a liquid (such as hot water) in order to flavor the liquid [*no obj*] The tea should be allowed to *infuse* for several minutes. [+ *obj*] You should *infuse* the tea for several minutes.

in•fu•sion /ɪnˈfjuːʒən/ *noun, pl* **-sions**
1 [*count*] : the addition of something (such as money) that is needed or helpful ▪ The company has received an *infusion* of cash/capital/funds. = There has been an *infusion* of cash/capital/funds into the company. ▪ Her ideas have brought a new *infusion* of vitality to the organization.
2 a [*count*] : a drink made by allowing something (such as tea) to stay in a liquid (such as hot water) : a drink made by infusing something ▪ a strong *infusion* of tea ▪ herbal *infusions* **b** [*noncount*] : the act of infusing something ▪ a medicinal drink made by *infusion* of herbs

[1]-ing /ɪŋ, ɪn/ *verb suffix or adj suffix* — used to form the present participle of a verb ▪ sail*ing* ▪ go*ing*

[2]-ing *noun suffix*
1 : action or process ▪ runn*ing* ▪ sleep*ing* ▪ meet*ing* ▪ draw*ing* ▪ wash*ing*
2 : product or result of an action or process ▪ a paint*ing* ▪ an engrav*ing*
3 : something used in or connected with making or doing (a specified thing) ▪ bedd*ing* ▪ roof*ing* ▪ scaffold*ing*

in•ge•nious /ɪnˈʤiːnjəs/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : very smart or clever : having or showing ingenuity ▪ The book has an *ingenious* plot. ▪ an *ingenious* device/plan/solution ▪ an *ingenious* person ▪ She was *ingenious* at finding ways to work more quickly. ▪ It was *ingenious* of him to arrange the schedule so precisely.
– **in•ge•nious•ly** *adv* ▪ an *ingeniously* clever design/solution

in•ge•nue (*US*) *or* **in•gé•nue** /ˈænʤəˌnuː, ˈɑːnʤəˌnuː, *Brit* ˈænʒəˌnjuː/ *noun, pl* **-nues** [*count*] : an innocent girl or young woman ▪ In her latest film she plays the part of an *ingenue*.

in•ge•nu•ity /ˌɪnʤəˈnuːwəti, *Brit* ˌɪnʤəˈnjuːwəti/ *noun, pl* **-ities**
1 [*noncount*] : skill or cleverness that allows someone to solve problems, invent things, etc. ▪ She showed amazing *ingenuity* in finding ways to cut costs. ▪ It will take considerable/much/some *ingenuity* to fix these problems.
2 [*count*] : a clever device or method ▪ musical *ingenuities*

in•gen•u•ous /ɪnˈʤɛnjəwəs/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : having or showing the innocence, trust, and honesty that young people often have ▪ an appealingly *ingenuous* young woman/man ▪ an *ingenuous* smile/response — compare DISINGENUOUS
– **in•gen•u•ous•ly** *adv* ▪ smiling *ingenuously* – **in•gen•u•ous•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

in•gest /ɪnˈʤɛst/ *verb* **-gests**; **-gest•ed**; **-gest•ing** [+ *obj*] : to take (something, such as food) into your body : to swallow (something) ▪ The drug is more easily *ingested* in pill form. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ She *ingested* [=*absorbed*] large amounts of information very quickly.
– **in•ges•tion** /ɪnˈʤɛsʧən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *ingestion* of food/alcohol

in•gle•nook /ˈɪŋgəlˌnʊk/ *noun, pl* **-nooks** [*count*] *chiefly Brit* : a space with a seat by the side of a large open fireplace

in•glo•ri•ous /ɪnˈglorijəs/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *literary* : causing shame or disgrace ▪ an *inglorious* [=*disgraceful*] defeat/failure ▪ His command came to an *inglorious* [=*shameful*] end when he surrendered the fort.
– **in•glo•ri•ous•ly** *adv* ▪ His command ended *ingloriously*.

in•got /ˈɪŋgət/ *noun, pl* **-gots** [*count*] : a solid piece of metal that has been formed into a particular shape (such as a brick) so that it is easy to handle or store ▪ gold *ingots*

in•grained /ˈɪnˌgreɪnd/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : existing for a long time and very difficult to change : firmly established ▪ an *ingrained* habit/tradition ▪ These attitudes are very deeply *ingrained* in the culture.

in•grate /ˈɪnˌgreɪt/ *noun, pl* **-grates** [*count*] *formal* : a person who does not show proper appreciation or thanks for something : an ungrateful person ▪ a spoiled *ingrate*

in•gra•ti•ate /ɪnˈgreɪʃiˌeɪt/ *verb* **-ates**; **-at•ed**; **-at•ing** [+ *obj*] *often disapproving* : to gain favor or approval for (yourself) by doing or saying things that people like — usually + *with* ▪ She has tried to *ingratiate* herself *with* voters by promising a tax cut.

ingratiating *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *often disapproving* : intended to gain someone's favor or approval ▪ an *ingratiating* smile/manner
– **in•gra•ti•at•ing•ly** *adv* ▪ smiling *ingratiatingly*

in•grat•i•tude /ɪnˈgrætəˌtuːd, *Brit* ɪnˈgrætəˌtjuːd/ *noun* [*noncount*] : lack of proper appreciation or thanks for something (such as a kind or helpful act) : lack of gratitude ▪ He was hurt by his friends' *ingratitude*. [=*ungratefulness*] ▪ an act of *ingratitude*

in•gre•di•ent /ɪnˈgriːdijənt/ *noun, pl* **-ents** [*count*]
1 : one of the things that are used to make a food, product, etc. ▪ He uses only the finest/freshest *ingredients* in his cooking. ▪ the *ingredients* of a salad ▪ the *ingredients* in/of the soap
2 : a quality or characteristic that makes something possible ▪ Honesty is an essential *ingredient* of/for a successful marriage. ▪ The show has all the *ingredients* needed to attract a large audience.

in•gress /ˈɪnˌgrɛs/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : a way to enter a place or the act of entering a place : ENTRANCE ▪ *Ingress* to and egress from the freeway were made difficult by the construction. — compare EGRESS

in•ground /ˈɪnˌgraʊnd/ *adj, always used before a noun, US* : located in the ground : not built above the ground ▪ an *inground* swimming pool — compare ABOVEGROUND, UNDERGROUND

in–group /ˈɪnˌgru:p/ *noun, pl* **-groups** [*count*] *usually disapproving* : a small group of people who share a particular interest or activity and who do not allow other people to join their group

in•grow•ing /ˈɪnˌgrowɪŋ/ *adj, always used before a noun, Brit* : INGROWN ▪ an *ingrowing* toenail

in•grown /ˈɪnˌgroʊn/ *adj* : having a tip or edge that has grown back into the flesh ▪ an *ingrown* toenail/hair

in•hab•it /ɪnˈhæbət/ *verb* **-its**; **-it•ed**; **-it•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to live in (a place) : to have a home in (a place) ▪ Several hundred species of birds *inhabit* the island. ▪ This part of the country is *inhabited* by native tribes. ▪ The island is no longer *inhabited*. [=no people live there]
2 : to be present in (something) ▪ There is a romantic quality that *inhabits* all her paintings. ▪ The novel is *inhabited* by a cast of eccentric characters.
– **in•hab•it•able** /ɪnˈhæbətəbəl/ *adj* ▪ The house is in such poor condition that it's barely *inhabitable*.

in•hab•it•ant /ɪnˈhæbətənt/ *noun, pl* **-ants** [*count*] : a person or animal that lives in a particular place ▪ The city has more than a million *inhabitants*. [=*residents*]

in•hal•ant /ɪnˈheɪlənt/ *noun, pl* **-ants** [*count*] *medical* : a medicine or illegal drug that is breathed into the lungs ▪ The medicine is now available as an *inhalant*.

in•hale /ɪnˈheɪl/ *verb* **-hales**; **-haled**; **-hal•ing**
1 : to breathe in [+ *obj*] This medicine can now be *inhaled*. ▪ She *inhaled* the fresh country air. [*no obj*] He *inhaled* deeply and exhaled slowly, trying to relax. — opposite EXHALE
2 [+ *obj*] *US, informal* : to eat or drink (something) very quickly ▪ After *inhaling* their dinner, the children ran out the door without even saying goodbye.
– **in•ha•la•tion** /ˌɪnhəˈleɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count, noncount*] ▪ (an) *inhalation* of chemical fumes ▪ Several survivors of the fire are suffering from ***smoke inhalation***. [=a serious injury caused by breathing a lot of smoke]

in•hal•er /ɪnˈheɪlɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *medical* : a device used for inhaling a medicine

in•here /ɪnˈhiɚ/ *verb* **-heres**; **-hered**; **-her•ing**
inhere in [*phrasal verb*] ***inhere in (someone or something)*** *formal* : to be a natural part of (someone or something) ▪ He believes that liberty *inheres in* [=(more commonly) *is inherent in*] humanity as a natural right. ▪ Does selfishness *inhere in* each of us?

in•her•ent /ɪnˈhirənt, ɪnˈherənt/ *adj, formal* : belonging to the basic nature of someone or something ▪ He has an *inherent* sense of fair play. ▪ She believes strongly in the *inherent* [=*fundamental, natural*] goodness of all people. — often + *in* ▪ She believes that goodness is *inherent in* all people. ▪ There are a number of problems *inherent in* the design/plan.
– **in•her•ent•ly** *adv* ▪ Are people *inherently* good? ▪ There is nothing *inherently* illegal about what he did.

in•her•it /ɪnˈherət/ *verb* **-its**; **-it•ed**; **-it•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to receive (money, property, etc.) from someone when that person dies ▪ She *inherited* the family business from her father. — compare DISINHERIT
2 a *biology* : to have (a characteristic, disease, etc.) because of the genes that you get from your parents when you are born ▪ Baldness is *inherited* from the mother's side of the family. ▪ She *inherited* her father's deep blue eyes. **b** : to get (a personal quality, interest, etc.) because of the influence or example of your parents or other relatives ▪ She *inherited* a love of baseball/cooking from her dad.
3 a : to receive (something) from someone who had it previously ▪ When my brother left for college, I *inherited* his old computer. **b** : to have to deal with (a situation, problem, etc.) when you take a job or position that someone else had before you ▪ The company's new president will *inherit* some complicated legal problems. ▪ When the coach quit, her assistant *inherited* a last-place team.
– **in•her•it•able** /ɪnˈherətəbəl/ *adj* ▪ an *inheritable* disease – **inherited** *adj* ▪ an *inherited* estate ▪ *inherited* [=*hereditary*] titles ▪ an *inherited* disease/disorder – **in•her•i•tor** /ɪnˈherətɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*] ▪ *inheritors* of the estate ▪ The new coach is an *inheritor* of a great team legacy. ▪ *inheritors* of a longtime family tradition

in•her•i•tance /ɪnˈherətəns/ *noun, pl* **-tanc•es**
1 [*count*] : money, property, etc., that is received from someone when that person dies ▪ She began her own business with the *inheritance* she got from her grandfather. ▪ He left sizable *inheritances* to his children. ▪ an ***inheritance tax*** [=a tax on inherited property or money]
2 [*singular*] : something from the past that is still important or valuable ▪ The buildings are part of the city's architectural *inheritance*. ▪ our cultural *inheritance*
3 [*noncount*] : the act of inheriting something ▪ the *inheritance* of an estate ▪ the *inheritance* of a genetic trait

in•hib•it /ɪnˈhɪbət/ *verb* **-its**; **-it•ed**; **-it•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to keep (someone) from doing what he or she wants to do ▪ You shouldn't allow fear of failure to *inhibit* you. ▪ He was *inhibited* by modesty. ▪ Fear can *inhibit* people from expressing their opinions.
2 : to prevent or slow down the activity or occurrence of (something) ▪ drugs that are used to *inhibit* infection ▪ Strict laws are *inhibiting* economic growth.
– **in•hib•i•tor** /ɪnˈhɪbətɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*] ▪ a powerful *inhibitor* of infection ▪ a growth *inhibitor*

inhibited *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : unable to express thoughts and feelings freely ▪ She wanted to feel less *inhibited*. ▪ a shy, *inhibited* child — opposite UNINHIBITED

in•hi•bi•tion /ˌɪnhəˈbɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**
1 : a nervous feeling that prevents you from expressing your thoughts, emotions, or desires [*count*] — usually plural ▪ After a few drinks, he lost his *inhibitions*. ▪ a release/relaxation of *inhibitions* ▪ She seems to have no *inhibitions* about stating her opinion. [*noncount*] She laughed loudly and without *inhibition*. ▪ a loss of *inhibition*
2 [*noncount*] *technical* : the act of preventing or slowing the activity or occurrence of something ▪ *inhibition* of muscle growth

in•hos•pi•ta•ble /ˌɪnhɑˈspɪtəbəl, ɪnˈhɑ:spɪtəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not hospitable: such as **a** : not generous and friendly to guests or visitors ▪ It's very *inhospitable* of him to be so rude to strangers. — often + *to* ▪ He was *inhospitable to* his guests. **b** : having an environment where plants, animals, or people cannot live or grow easily ▪ an *inhospitable* [=*barren*] desert/habitat — often + *to* ▪ soil *inhospitable to* plant growth **c** : not ready or willing to accept or consider something — usually + *to* ▪ a person/company known for being *inhospitable* [=*closed*] *to* new ideas

in–house /ˈɪnˌhaʊs/ *adj, usually used before a noun* : created, done, or existing within a company or organization ▪ *in-house* testing ▪ an *in-house* investigation/adviser
– **in–house** *adv* ▪ All the testing was done *in-house*.

in•hu•man /ɪnˈhju:mən/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 a : very fierce or cruel ▪ *inhuman* [=*savage*] punishment ▪ a brutally *inhuman* tyrant ▪ the most *inhuman* deeds/crimes **b** : having or showing no interest in individual people or their feelings : lacking emotional warmth ▪ an *inhuman* [=*impersonal*] bureaucracy
2 : not good enough for people to use or live in : extremely poor, dirty, or unhealthy ▪ *inhuman* living conditions
3 : unlike what might be expected from a human being ▪ He let out an *inhuman* moan. ▪ She had an almost *inhuman* desire to succeed. — compare NONHUMAN, SUBHUMAN
– **in•hu•man•ly** *adv* ▪ an *inhumanly* cruel punishment

in•hu•mane /ˌɪnhju:ˈmeɪn/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not kind or gentle to people or animals : not humane ▪ the *inhumane* [=*cruel*] treatment of prisoners
– **in•hu•mane•ly** *adv* ▪ treating the animals *inhumanely*

in•hu•man•i•ty /ˌɪnhju:ˈmænəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the quality or state of being cruel to other people or to animals ▪ She cannot understand man's *inhumanity* to man. [=she cannot understand why people treat each other in a cruel way] ▪ the *inhumanity* [=*brutality*] of war

in•im•i•cal /ɪˈnɪmɪkəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal*
1 : likely to cause damage or have a bad effect : HARMFUL — usually + *to* ▪ habits *inimical to* health ▪ Dry conditions can be *inimical to* plant life.
2 : not friendly ▪ the judge's *inimical* glare

in•im•i•ta•ble /ɪˈnɪmətəbəl/ *adj* : impossible to copy or imitate ▪ She delivered the speech in her own *inimitable* [=*unique*] style.

in•iq•ui•tous /ɪˈnɪkwətəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : very unfair or evil ▪ an *iniquitous* deed/war

in•iq•ui•ty /ɪˈnɪkwəti/ *noun, pl* **-ties** *formal*
1 [*noncount*] : the quality of being unfair or evil ▪ a system plagued by corruption and *iniquity* [=*injustice*] ▪ a notorious ***den of iniquity*** [=a place where immoral things are done]
2 [*count*] : something that is unfair or evil ▪ the *iniquities* of slavery

Do not confuse *iniquity* with *inequity*.

[1]ini•tial /ɪˈnɪʃəl/ *adj, always used before a noun* : occurring at the beginning of something ▪ The symptoms are mild in the

initial [=*early*] stages of the disease. • Her *initial* [=*first*] reaction was to say no, but she eventually agreed to help.
– **ini•tial•ly** /ɪˈnɪʃəli/ *adv* • The reason I *initially* [=*originally*] came here was to find work. • It turned out that the situation was not as serious as we had *initially* believed. • *Initially* [=*at first*], the symptoms are mild.

²initial *noun, pl* **-tials**
1 [*count*] : a first letter of a name • President Franklin D. Roosevelt's middle *initial* stood for "Delano."
2 *initials* [*plural*] : the first letters of each of a person's names • She put her *initials* on each page of the contract. • The *initials* F.D.R. stood for "Franklin Delano Roosevelt."

³initial *verb* **-tials**; *US* **-tialed** *or Brit* **-tialled**; *US* **-tial•ing** *or Brit* **-tial•ling** [+ *obj*] : to mark (something) with your initials • She *initialed* each page of the contract.

initial public offering *noun, pl* ~ **-ings** [*count*] : the first sale of a company's stock to the public : IPO

¹ini•ti•ate /ɪˈnɪʃiˌeɪt/ *verb* **-ates**; **-at•ed**; **-at•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 *formal* : to cause the beginning of (something) : to start or begin (something) • *initiate* a new project • Doctors have *initiated* a series of tests to determine the cause of the problem. • The company *initiated* judicial proceedings against them.
2 : to formally accept (someone) as a member of a group or organization usually in a special ceremony • The new recruits will be *initiated* tomorrow night. • He was *initiated* into a secret society.
3 : to teach (someone) the basic facts or ideas about something — usually + *into* • They *initiated* her *into* the ways of the corporate world.
– **ini•ti•a•tor** /ɪˈnɪʃiˌeɪtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*] • the *initiator* of the project

²ini•tiate /ɪˈnɪʃijət/ *noun, pl* **-tiates** [*count*] : a person who is being formally accepted or who has been formally accepted as a member of a group or organization • These secrets are known only to a small group of *initiates*.

ini•ti•a•tion /ɪˌnɪʃiˈeɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**
1 a [*noncount*] : the process of being formally accepted as a member of a group or organization : the process of being initiated • his *initiation* as a member of the club — often + *into* • her *initiation into* the sorority **b** [*count*] : a ceremony or series of actions that makes a person a member of a group or organization • crimes committed as part of gang *initiations* • an *initiation* rite/ritual
2 [*noncount*] : the act of starting something : the beginning of something • the *initiation* of therapy • the *initiation* of judicial proceedings

ini•tia•tive /ɪˈnɪʃətɪv/ *noun, pl* **-tives**
1 *the initiative* : the power or opportunity to do something before others do • If you want to meet her, you're going to have to ***take the initiative*** and introduce yourself. • The company has the opportunity to ***seize the initiative*** by getting its new products to the market before its competitors. • By failing to get its products to the market on schedule, the company has ***lost the initiative*** (to its competitors).
2 [*noncount*] : the energy and desire that is needed to do something • She has ability but lacks *initiative*. [=*drive*] ✧ If you do something ***on your own initiative***, you do it because you choose to, not because someone has told you to do it. • I'm doing this *on my own initiative*. [=because I want to] ✧ If you ***use your (own) initiative***, you decide for yourself what to do instead of waiting to be told by someone else. • You should *use your own initiative* to come up with a solution.
3 [*count*] : a plan or program that is intended to solve a problem • The governor has proposed a new *initiative* to improve conditions in urban schools. • anti-poverty *initiatives*

in•ject /ɪnˈʤɛkt/ *verb* **-jects**; **-ject•ed**; **-ject•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 a : to force a liquid medicine or drug into someone or something by using a special needle — often + *into* • The medicine is *injected* directly *into* the muscle. — often + *with* • The patients were *injected with* the vaccine. **b** : to force (a liquid) into something — usually + *into* • *inject* fuel *into* an engine — sometimes used in combination • a fuel-*injected* engine
2 a : to add (something) to something : to introduce (a particular quality) *into* something • She told a few jokes to *inject* a little humor *into* her speech. • We need to *inject* some life *into* this party. **b** : to provide or add (something needed, such as money) — + *into* • Several wealthy investors have *injected* money *into* the project.
– **in•jec•tor** /ɪnˈʤɛktɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*] • a fuel *injector*

in•jec•tion /ɪnˈʤɛkʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**
1 : the act or process of forcing a liquid medicine or drug into someone or something by using a special needle [*noncount*] The medicine cannot be taken orally; it must be given/administered ***by injection***. [*count*] Nurses give the *injections*. • an *injection* of a painkiller
2 : the act or process of forcing a liquid into something [*noncount*] an engine with ***fuel injection*** [=a system that injects fuel directly into the cylinders of an engine] [*count*] *injections* of fuel
3 [*count*] : the addition of something (such as money) that is needed to support something • The struggling company needed an *injection* of cash.

in–joke /ˈɪnˌʤoʊk/ *noun, pl* **-jokes** [*count*] : a joke that is only understood by a particular group of people

in•ju•di•cious /ˌɪnʤuˈdɪʃəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : not having or showing good judgment : not sensible or judicious • an *injudicious* [=*unwise*] lawsuit • He made several *injudicious* comments to the press.
– **in•ju•di•cious•ly** *adv*

in•junc•tion /ɪnˈʤʌŋkʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*] *law* : an order from a court of law that says something must be done or must not be done • The group has obtained an *injunction* to prevent the demolition of the building. — often + *against* • The court has issued/granted an *injunction against* the strike.

in•jure /ˈɪnʤɚ/ *verb* **-jures**; **-jured**; **-jur•ing** [+ *obj*] : to harm or damage (someone or something) • She fell and *injured* herself. • She fell and slightly *injured* her arm. • The criticism *injured* [=*wounded*] his pride. • The scandal has *injured* [=*tarnished*] her reputation. • Several people were badly/seriously/critically *injured* in the accident. • He believes that the tax will *injure* [=*hurt*] small businesses.

synonyms INJURE, HURT, HARM, DAMAGE, and IMPAIR mean to cause something or someone to no longer be healthy or in good condition. INJURE is usually used when the body of a person or animal has been harmed by something, such as an accident. • Two people were badly *injured* in the accident. • She *injured* her muscle/leg while running. HURT and HARM are both often used to mean the same thing as INJURE, but HURT often emphasizes physical or emotional pain. • He *hurt* his back and was unable to walk for a week. • I was *hurt* by their unkind remarks. HARM often emphasizes a bad change in health. • The plant is poisonous to humans but will not *harm* deer. DAMAGE is often used when something loses value or becomes less useful. • The table was *damaged* in shipping. • fruit trees *damaged* by frost • Very loud music may *damage* your ears. IMPAIR suggests that something has been made weaker or worse. • a disease that *impairs* memory/vision • Years of smoking had *impaired* his health.

injured *adj*
1 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : suffering from an injury : physically hurt or harmed • An ambulance took the *injured* boy to the hospital. • Her severely/badly *injured* arm took a long time to heal. • One of the players is *injured*.
2 *always used before a noun* **a** *law* : having been treated unfairly • A lawsuit is being filed on behalf of the *injured* party/person. **b** : showing a feeling that you have been treated unfairly or insulted in some way • He gave her an *injured* look.
the injured : injured people • *The injured* were treated at a nearby hospital.

in•ju•ri•ous /ɪnˈʤʊrijəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : causing injury : HARMFUL • *injurious* behavior • The decision has had an *injurious* effect. — often + *to* • behavior *injurious to* others
– **in•ju•ri•ous•ly** *adv* • They have been *injuriously* affected by the decision.

in•ju•ry /ˈɪnʤəri/ *noun, pl* **-ries** : harm or damage : an act or event that causes someone or something to no longer be fully healthy or in good condition [*noncount*] Hikers need to take sensible precautions to prevent *injury*. • She's concerned about the risk of *injury* to her reputation. • The team has been weakened by illness and *injury*. • Careless use of these tools can cause serious bodily *injury*. • She survived the accident without *injury*. • an athlete who is ***injury-prone*** [=an athlete who is frequently injured] [*count*] She fell and suffered an *injury* to her arm. • His athletic career has been slowed by *injuries*. • minor/serious/severe *injuries*
add insult to injury see ²INSULT
do yourself an injury *chiefly Brit* : to hurt yourself : to become injured because of your own actions • If you keep on

lifting those heavy weights, you'll *do yourself an injury*.

injury time *noun* [*noncount*] *Brit* : time that is added at the end of a game of hockey, soccer, etc., because of time lost when players are injured

in•jus•tice /ɪn'ʤʌstəs/ *noun, pl* **-tic•es** : unfair treatment : a situation in which the rights of a person or a group of people are ignored [*noncount*] The organization is devoted to fighting economic/racial/social *injustice*. ▪ protection against *injustice* [*count*] the *injustices* of apartheid ▪ The law is part of an effort to correct an old *injustice*. ▪ He suffered a great/terrible *injustice* [=*wrong*] at their hands.

do (someone or something) an injustice : to treat (someone or something) in an unfair way ▪ They *did her a* great/terrible/grave *injustice* by not allowing her to file a complaint. ▪ I think you *do the book an injustice* when you call it "trash." ▪ The weak punishment ***does an injustice to*** the criminal's victims.

[1]ink /'ɪŋk/ *noun, pl* **inks**

1 : colored liquid that is used for writing or printing [*noncount*] Fill out the form using blue or black *ink*. ▪ The printer is out of *ink*. ▪ pen and *ink* drawings/sketches [*count*] We're using four different *inks* for this poster.

2 [*noncount*] *US slang* : public attention : PUBLICITY ▪ Her exploits have been getting a lot of *ink* lately. [=there have been many newspaper stories about her exploits lately]

3 [*noncount*] *biology* : the black liquid that is used by some sea creatures for protection ▪ squid *ink*

– see also RED INK

[2]ink *verb* **inks; inked; ink•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to put ink on (something) ▪ *ink* the printing block

2 *US, informal* **a** : to sign (a document) to show that you accept or agree with what is written on it ▪ They just *inked* a new partnership agreement/deal. **b** : to hire (someone) to do something by having that person sign a contract ▪ The team has *inked* [=*signed*] both players to a new contract.

ink in [*phrasal verb*] ***ink in (something)*** *or* ***ink (something) in*** : to write or draw (something) in ink ▪ She carefully *inked in* the letters.

in–kind /'ɪn'kaɪnd/ *adj, always used before a noun, US* : made up of something other than money ▪ The charity also accepts *in-kind* donations such as food or clothing.

ink–jet printer *noun, pl* **~ -ers** [*count*] *computers* : a printer that works by spraying small drops of ink onto paper — compare LASER PRINTER

in•kling /'ɪŋklɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-klings** [*count*] : a slight, uncertain idea about something : a slight amount of knowledge about something — usually singular ▪ I didn't have an *inkling* [=*clue*] of what it all meant. ▪ Nothing gave me any *inkling* that it would happen.

ink pad *noun, pl* **~ pads** [*count*] : a piece of soft material that is soaked with ink and used to get ink onto a rubber stamp

ink•well /'ɪŋk,wɛl/ *noun, pl* **-wells** [*count*] : a small container in the surface of a desk that was used in the past for holding ink

inky /'ɪŋki/ *adj*

1 *literary* : very dark or black like ink ▪ the *inky* blackness/darkness of the sea

2 : made dirty by ink ▪ *inky* hands

in•laid /'ɪn'leɪd/ *adj*

1 : set into the surface of something in a decorative pattern ▪ *inlaid* designs/marble

2 : decorated with an inlaid design ▪ an *inlaid* box/tabletop

[1]in•land /'ɪn,lænd/ *adv* : in, into, or toward the middle of a country : away from the coast ▪ They traveled *inland* from the sea. ▪ They live *inland* about three miles.

[2]inland *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : of, relating to, or in the part of a country that is away from the coast or boundaries ▪ *inland* transportation routes ▪ an *inland* sea

Inland Revenue *noun*

the Inland Revenue : the department of the British government that is responsible for collecting taxes — compare INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

in–law /'ɪn,lɑ:/ *noun, pl* **-laws** [*count*] : a person you are related to because of your marriage; *especially* : the father or mother of your husband or wife — usually plural ▪ She was nervous when she met her *in-laws* for the first time.

in–law apartment *noun, pl* **~ -ments** [*count*] *US* : a small apartment that is part of or next to a house and that is used especially as a place for an older relative to live — called also (*US*) *mother-in-law apartment*, (*Brit*) *granny flat*

[1]in•lay /ɪn'leɪ/ *verb* **-lays; -laid** /ɪn'leɪd/; **-lay•ing** [+ *obj*] : to set pieces of wood, metal, etc., into the surface of (something) for decoration — often + *with* ▪ The desk is *inlaid with* ivory. ▪ The carpenter *inlaid* the furniture *with* intricate designs.

[2]in•lay /'ɪn,leɪ/ *noun, pl* **-lays** : material that is set into the surface of something for decoration : inlaid material [*noncount*] decorative/marble *inlay* [*count*] The cabinet doors are decorated with *inlays*.

in•let /'ɪn,lɛt/ *noun, pl* **-lets** [*count*]

1 : a narrow area of water that goes into the land from a sea or lake ▪ The coast is dotted with tiny *inlets*.

2 : an opening through which air, gas, or liquid can enter something (such as a machine) ▪ a gas/air *inlet*

in–line skate *noun, pl* **~ skates** [*count*] : a shoe with wheels set in a straight line on the bottom that is used for skating ▪ a pair of *in-line skates* — see picture at SKATE

– **in–line skater** *noun, pl* **~ -ers** [*count*] – **in–line skating** *noun* [*noncount*]

in lo•co pa•ren•tis /ɪn'loukoupə'rɛntəs/ *adv, law, formal* : in the place of a parent ▪ Some feel that the university should act *in loco parentis*. [=should be responsible for the students in the same way parents are responsible for their children]

in•mate /'ɪn,meɪt/ *noun, pl* **-mates** [*count*] : a person who is kept in a prison or mental hospital ▪ prison *inmates*

in me•mo•ri•am /,ɪnmə'morijəm/ *prep, formal* : in memory of (someone who has died) — used especially on the stone that marks a grave

in•most /'ɪn,moust/ *adj, always used before a noun* : INNERMOST ▪ She revealed her *inmost* thoughts and feelings.

inn /'ɪn/ *noun, pl* **inns** [*count*]

1 : a house usually in the country where people can eat and rent a room to sleep in ▪ We stayed at a cozy/charming little *inn* in the country. — often used in the names of hotels ▪ We stayed at the Lakeside *Inn*.

2 *chiefly Brit* : a pub ▪ an old country *inn*

in•nards /'ɪnədz/ *noun* [*plural*] *informal*

1 : the internal organs of a person or an animal ▪ the chicken's edible *innards*

2 : the inside parts of something ▪ the robot's complicated *innards* ▪ tinkering with the car's *innards*

in•nate /ɪ'neɪt/ *adj*

1 : existing from the time a person or animal is born ▪ an *innate* ability/talent ▪ She has an *innate* sense of rhythm.

2 : existing as part of the basic nature of something ▪ the *innate* problems of wireless communication

– **in•nate•ly** *adv* ▪ *innately* curious

in•ner /'ɪnə/ *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : located toward the inside of something : not on or at the edge or outside of something ▪ She led the guests to an *inner* room. ▪ the *inner* face of the arch ▪ the *inner* lining of the jacket — opposite OUTER

2 : not known to or seen by most people ▪ the poem's *inner* meaning ▪ He wanted to experience the ***inner workings*** of the political campaign. [=the parts of the campaign that are only known by the people who work on it]

3 a : of or relating to a person's mind or spirit ▪ *inner* peace/conflict ▪ his *inner* life/self ▪ listening to her *inner* voice ▪ a person's *inner* beauty **b** : existing as a part of a person's character ▪ He's trying to get in touch with his *inner* artist. [=the part of his character that is artistic]

inner circle *noun, pl* **~ -cles** [*count*] : a small group of people who lead a government or an organization or who are close to its leader — usually singular ▪ The President has an ***inner circle*** of advisers.

inner city *noun, pl* **~ cities** [*count*] : the central section of a large city where mostly poor people live ▪ The mayor is trying to attract new businesses to the *inner city*.

– **inner–city** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ *inner-city* kids/neighborhoods/schools/crime

inner ear *noun, pl* **~ ears** [*count*] *biology* : the part of the ear that is located within your head and that controls hearing and balance — compare OUTER EAR

in•ner•most /'ɪnə,moust/ *adj*

1 *always used before a noun* : most private and personal ▪ She revealed her *innermost* feelings/secrets.

2 : closest to the center or inside of something ▪ Jupiter's *innermost* moon ▪ the *innermost* part of the cave — opposite OUTERMOST

inner sanc•tum *noun, pl* **~ -tums** [*count*] *somewhat formal* : a very private room or place ▪ She was admitted to the

building's *inner sanctum*. — often used figuratively ▪ the *inner sanctum* of the CIA

inner tube *noun, pl* ~ **tubes** [*count*] : a round tube that holds air inside a tire

in•ning /ˈɪnɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-nings** [*count*] *baseball* : one of the usually nine parts of a game in which each team bats until three outs are made ▪ She hit a double in the fourth *inning*. ▪ He pitched three *innings*.

innings /ˈɪnɪŋz/ *noun, pl* **innings** [*count*] *cricket* : one of the parts of a game in which a team or player bats

had a good innings *Brit, informal* — used to say that someone who has died lived a long life ▪ We're sad she's gone, but she *had a good innings*.

inn•keep•er /ˈɪnˌkiːpɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *old-fashioned* : a person who owns or manages an inn

in•no•cence /ˈɪnəsəns/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the state of being innocent: such as **a** : the state of being not guilty of a crime or other wrong act ▪ The defendant maintained/protested his *innocence*. [=he said that he was not guilty] ▪ He vows that he will prove his *innocence* in court. — opposite GUILT **b** : lack of experience with the world and with the bad things that happen in life ▪ the trusting *innocence* of childhood ▪ The age of *innocence* was over. **c** *somewhat formal* : lack of knowledge about something ▪ Your *innocence* [=(more commonly) *ignorance*] of the rules is no excuse for such behavior. ▪ I mentioned ***in all innocence*** what turned out to be a very painful topic for her. [=I mentioned the topic without knowing that it was so painful for her to talk about it]

in•no•cent /ˈɪnəsənt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : not guilty of a crime or other wrong act ▪ He says that he is *innocent* of the crime. ▪ She was found *innocent* of all charges. ▪ A person accused of a crime is considered *innocent* until proven guilty. ▪ Someone told your secret, but it wasn't me. I'm *innocent*. — opposite GUILTY

2 *always used before a noun* : not deserving to be harmed ▪ an *innocent* victim ▪ *innocent* bystanders

3 : lacking experience with the world and the bad things that happen in life ▪ an *innocent* child

4 : not intended to cause harm or trouble ▪ an *innocent* question ▪ I made an *innocent* mistake; I'm sorry. ▪ *innocent* [=*harmless*] fun

5 *not used before a noun, somewhat formal* : having no knowledge *of* something ▪ He was entirely *innocent of* what had happened. [=he did not know what had happened]

– **innocent** *noun, pl* **-cents** [*count*] ▪ a war that caused the death of thousands of *innocents* [=innocent people] ▪ She was an *innocent* when it came to romance. – **in•no•cent•ly** *adv* ▪ I *innocently* mentioned what turned out to be a very painful topic. ▪ She smiled *innocently*. ▪ Everything started out *innocently* [=*harmlessly*] enough.

in•noc•u•ous /ɪˈnɑːkjəwəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : not likely to bother or offend anyone : INOFFENSIVE ▪ He told a few *innocuous* jokes. ▪ an *innocuous* question

2 : causing no injury : HARMLESS ▪ an *innocuous* gas

– **in•noc•u•ous•ly** *adv* – **in•noc•u•ous•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

in•no•vate /ˈɪnəˌveɪt/ *verb* **-vates**; **-vat•ed**; **-vat•ing** : to do something in a new way : to have new ideas about how something can be done [*no obj*] The company plans to continue *innovating* and experimenting. [+ *obj*] The company *innovated* a new operating system.

– **in•no•va•tor** /ˈɪnəˌveɪtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*] ▪ She is known as a great/brilliant/gifted *innovator* in her field.

in•no•va•tion /ˌɪnəˈveɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**

1 [*count*] : a new idea, device, or method ▪ She is responsible for many *innovations* in her field. ▪ the latest *innovation* in computer technology

2 [*noncount*] : the act or process of introducing new ideas, devices, or methods ▪ Through technology and *innovation*, they found ways to get better results with less work. ▪ the rapid pace of technological *innovation*

in•no•va•tive /ˈɪnəˌveɪtɪv/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : introducing or using new ideas or methods ▪ an *innovative* approach/solution to the problem ▪ an *innovative* design

2 : having new ideas about how something can be done ▪ a creative and *innovative* young designer

– **in•no•va•tive•ly** *adv*

in•no•va•to•ry /ˈɪnəvəˌtori, *Brit* ˈɪnəˌveɪtri/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *Brit* : INNOVATIVE

in•nu•en•do /ˌɪnjəˈwɛndoʊ/ *noun, pl* **-dos** *or* **-does** : a statement which indirectly suggests that someone has done something immoral, improper, etc. [*count*] His reputation has been damaged by *innuendos* about his drinking and gambling. [*noncount*] His reputation has been damaged by *innuendo*. ▪ The movie relies on sexual *innuendo* for its humor.

Innuit *variant spelling of* INUIT

in•nu•mer•a•ble /ɪˈnuːmərəbəl, *Brit* ɪˈnjuːmərəbəl/ *adj* : too many to be counted : very many ▪ the *innumerable* [=*countless*] stars in the sky ▪ There are *innumerable* errors in the book.

in•nu•mer•ate /ɪˈnuːmərət, *Brit* ɪˈnjuːmərət/ *adj* : unable to understand and do basic mathematics ▪ an *innumerate* person

– **in•nu•mer•a•cy** /ɪˈnuːmərəsi, *Brit* ɪˈnjuːmərəsi/ *noun* [*noncount*]

in•oc•u•late /ɪˈnɑːkjəˌleɪt/ *verb* **-lates**; **-lat•ed**; **-lat•ing** [+ *obj*] *medical* : to give (a person or animal) a weakened form of a disease in order to prevent infection by the disease — often + *against* ▪ All the children have been *inoculated against* smallpox.

– **in•oc•u•la•tion** /ɪˌnɑːkjəˈleɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count, noncount*]

in•of•fen•sive /ˌɪnəˈfɛnsɪv/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not likely to offend or bother anyone : not offensive ▪ The priest was a mild-mannered *inoffensive* fellow.

– **in•of•fen•sive•ly** *adv* ▪ an *inoffensively* mild wine – **in•of•fen•sive•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

in•op•er•a•ble /ɪnˈɑːpərəbəl/ *adj*

1 *medical* : not able to be corrected or removed by surgery ▪ an *inoperable* tumor ▪ a patient with *inoperable* cancer

2 *formal* : not capable of being used ▪ The device makes the car *inoperable* when a key is not used to start it.

in•op•er•a•tive /ɪnˈɑːpərətɪv/ *adj, formal*

1 : not capable of being used ▪ The accident had rendered the vehicle *inoperative*.

2 : having no force or effect ▪ With the new federal law in place, the state law has become *inoperative*.

in•op•por•tune /ɪnˌɑːpɚˈtuːn, *Brit* ɪnˈɒpəˌtjuːn/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : not suitable or right for a particular situation : INCONVENIENT ▪ He always shows up at the most *inopportune* times.

2 : done or happening at the wrong time ▪ an *inopportune* sale of stocks

– **in•op•por•tune•ly** *adv*

in•or•di•nate /ɪnˈoɚdn̩ət/ *adj* : going beyond what is usual, normal, or proper ▪ I waited an *inordinate* amount of time. ▪ They have had an *inordinate* number of problems with the schedule.

– **in•or•di•nate•ly** *adv* ▪ We had to wait an *inordinately* long time.

in•or•gan•ic /ˌɪnoɚˈgænɪk/ *adj* : made from or containing material that does not come from plants or animals ▪ *inorganic* fertilizer ▪ producing energy from *inorganic* materials — opposite ORGANIC

– **in•or•gan•i•cal•ly** /ˌɪnoɚˈgænɪkli/ *adv*

inorganic chemistry *noun* [*noncount*] : a branch of chemistry concerned with substances that contain little or no carbon — compare ORGANIC CHEMISTRY

in•pa•tient /ˈɪnˌpeɪʃənt/ *noun, pl* **-tients** [*count*] *medical* : a patient who stays for one or more nights in a hospital for treatment — often used before another noun ▪ *inpatient* surgery [=surgery performed on inpatients] ▪ *inpatient* care/treatment — compare OUTPATIENT

[1]in•put /ˈɪnˌpʊt/ *noun, pl* **-puts**

1 [*noncount*] : advice or opinions that help someone make a decision ▪ I need your *input* on what to have for dinner. ▪ She provided some valuable *input* at the start of the project.

2 *technical* **a** [*noncount*] : information that is put into a computer ▪ The computer gets its *input* from a keyboard or mouse. ▪ an *input* device **b** [*noncount*] : something (such as power or energy) that is put into a machine or system ▪ electrical *input* **c** [*count*] : the place at which information, power, etc., enters a computer, machine, or system ▪ This VCR has several audio/video *inputs*.

3 : the act or process of putting something in or into something else [*singular*] The job will require a considerable *input* of money. [*noncount*] The data is ready for *input* into/to a computer. — compare OUTPUT

[2]input *verb* **-puts**; **-put•ted** *or* **-put**; **-put•ting** [+ *obj*] : to enter (information) into a computer ▪ She *inputted* the sales figures into the spreadsheet. — compare OUTPUT

in•quest /ˈɪnˌkwɛst/ *noun, pl* **-quests** [*count*] *law* : an official investigation to find the reason for something (such as a person's death) ▪ a coroner's *inquest* ▪ The court has ordered

an *inquest* into his death/disappearance.

in•quire *or chiefly Brit* **en•quire** /ɪn'kwajɚ/ *verb* **-quires; -quired; -quir•ing** *somewhat formal* : to ask for information [*no obj*] When I *inquired*, they told me she was not here. — usually + *about* ▪ I called to *inquire about* the schedule. ▪ He was *inquiring about* a friend who used to work here. [+ *obj*] We *inquired* the way to the station. ▪ "So, what do you want?" he *inquired*.

inquire after [*phrasal verb*] ***inquire after (someone or something)*** : to ask for information about (someone or something) ▪ She *inquired after* my wife's health. ▪ He greeted us warmly and *inquired after* our families.

inquire into [*phrasal verb*] ***inquire into (something)*** : to gather or collect information about (something) ▪ A panel has been appointed to *inquire into* their activities. ▪ The commission should not have *inquired into* her personal life.

inquire of [*phrasal verb*] ***inquire of (someone)*** *formal* : to ask (someone) a question ▪ The police *inquired of* his neighbors if they knew where he was.

– **in•quir•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

inquiring *or chiefly Brit* **enquiring** *adj, always used before a noun* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : asking questions : wanting to learn more ▪ He got a call from an *inquiring* journalist/reporter. ▪ She has an *inquiring* [=*inquisitive*] mind.

2 : showing a desire to ask a question or learn more ▪ an *inquiring* look/gaze

– **in•quir•ing•ly** /ɪn'kwajɚɪŋli/ *adv* ▪ She looked at him *inquiringly*. [=*questioningly*]

in•qui•ry *or chiefly Brit* **en•qui•ry** /ɪn'kwaɪri, 'ɪnkwəri/ *noun, pl* **-ries**

1 [*count*] : a request for information ▪ She refused to answer *inquiries* from the media about her marriage. — often + *into* ▪ She was told that she could not make an *inquiry into* [=she could not ask about] the salaries of her coworkers.

2 [*count*] : an official effort to collect and examine information about something : INVESTIGATION ▪ judicial/legislative *inquiries* ▪ The board ordered an *inquiry* to determine whether the rules had been followed. — often + *into* ▪ The police are conducting an *inquiry into* (the circumstances of) his death. ✧ In British English, a person who is being questioned by the police as a suspect or a witness is said to be ***helping the police with their inquiries***.

3 [*noncount*] : the act of asking questions in order to gather or collect information ▪ Further *inquiry* showed that he had visited the city twice before. ▪ scientific/academic *inquiry* ▪ The police are pursuing a new ***line of inquiry***.

in•qui•si•tion /ˌɪnkwə'zɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**

1 ***the Inquisition*** : an organization in the Roman Catholic Church in the past that was responsible for finding and punishing people who did not accept its beliefs and practices ▪ *the* Spanish *Inquisition*

2 [*count*] : a harsh and unfair investigation or series of questions ▪ His political enemies were conducting an *inquisition* into the details of his personal life.

in•quis•i•tive /ɪn'kwɪzətɪv/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : tending to ask questions : having a desire to know or learn more ▪ She was very *inquisitive* [=*curious*] as a child. ▪ an *inquisitive* mind

2 *disapproving* : asking too many questions about other people's lives ▪ an overly *inquisitive* neighbor

– **in•quis•i•tive•ly** *adv* ▪ She looked at me *inquisitively*.

– **in•quis•i•tive•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

in•quis•i•tor /ɪn'kwɪzətɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*]

1 : a person who asks many difficult questions in a harsh or unkind way ▪ He had to answer his *inquisitors'* questions or be thrown out of school.

2 : a member or officer of the Inquisition

– **in•quis•i•to•ri•al** /ɪnˌkwɪzə'torijəl/ *adj*

in•road /'ɪnˌroʊd/ *noun, pl* **-roads** [*count*] — used to describe a situation in which someone or something becomes more successful or important often by making someone or something else less successful; usually plural ▪ We need to protect our company against the *inroads* of competitors. — usually used with *make* ▪ Despite the recent *inroads made* by competitors in the industry, the company is still doing well. ▪ The party hopes to *make* serious *inroads* in Congress. [=the party hopes that many more of its members will be elected to serve in Congress] ▪ The sport is *making inroads* in the U.S. [=it is becoming more popular in the U.S.]

in•rush /'ɪnˌrʌʃ/ *noun* [*singular*] : a fast inward flow or movement into a place ▪ a sudden *inrush* of water/air

ins. *abbr* inches

in•sa•lu•bri•ous /ˌɪnsə'luːbrijəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : not clean or healthy ▪ the city's *insalubrious* air — opposite SALUBRIOUS

ins and outs /ˌɪnzən'aʊts/ *noun*

the ins and outs : the details about how something works or is done — often + *of* ▪ I'm still learning all *the ins and outs of* American politics.

in•sane /ɪn'seɪn/ *adj*

1 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not sane: such as **a** : having or showing severe mental illness ▪ an *insane* person ▪ The murderer was found to be criminally *insane*.

> ***usage*** The use of *insane* to describe a person with severe mental illness is now often considered offensive. The phrase *mentally ill* is preferred. *Insane* in this sense now occurs chiefly in such legal phrases as *criminally insane* and *temporarily insane*.

b : unable to think in a clear or sensible way ▪ She was *insane* with jealousy/anger. **c** — used in the phrase ***drive/make (someone) insane*** to describe annoying or bothering someone very much. ▪ That noise is *driving* me *insane*. [=it is annoying me very much] ▪ It *makes me insane* [=I feel very annoyed] when people drive like that.

2 : wild and uncontrolled ▪ He had an *insane* look in his eyes.

3 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : very foolish or unreasonable : CRAZY ▪ She likes to drive at *insane* speeds. ▪ He had this *insane* idea that he could get rich by selling old computers.

4 : used for people who have severe mental illnesses ▪ an ***insane asylum*** [=(now more commonly) a mental hospital]

go insane : to become mentally ill : to go crazy ▪ She *went insane* and started thinking that everyone was trying to kill her. — usually used in an exaggerated way ▪ I must be *going insane*. I can't find my car keys anywhere. ▪ If you don't stop making that noise, I'm going to *go* (completely) *insane*!

the insane : insane people : people who have severe mental illness ▪ a hospital for *the insane* [=(now more commonly) the mentally ill]

– **in•sane•ly** *adv* ▪ Her boyfriend was *insanely* jealous.

in•san•i•tary /ɪn'sænəˌteri/ *adj, chiefly Brit* : dirty and likely to cause disease : UNSANITARY ▪ *insanitary* living conditions ▪ an *insanitary* bathroom

in•san•i•ty /ɪn'sænəti/ *noun, pl* **-ties**

1 [*noncount*] : severe mental illness : the condition of being insane ▪ She was found not guilty by reason of *insanity*. ▪ temporary *insanity*

2 : something that is very foolish or unreasonable [*noncount*] His friends thought his decision to quit his job was pure *insanity*. ▪ Please, no more violence. It's time to stop this *insanity*. [*count*] the *insanities* of modern life

in•sa•tia•ble /ɪn'seɪʃəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : always wanting more : not able to be satisfied ▪ an *insatiable* appetite/thirst ▪ Her desire for knowledge was *insatiable*.

– **in•sa•tia•bly** /ɪn'seɪʃəbli/ *adv* ▪ an *insatiably* curious student

in•scribe /ɪn'skraɪb/ *verb* **-scribes; -scribed; -scrib•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to write or cut (words, a name, etc.) on something — + *on* or *in* ▪ The winner's name is *inscribed on* the trophy. ▪ He *inscribed* a message *in* the book before giving it to his son. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ The image is *inscribed in* my memory. [=I remember the image very clearly]

2 : to write words, a name, etc., on (something) ▪ They *inscribed* the monument with the soldiers' names. ▪ The book was *inscribed* with the author's signature.

in•scrip•tion /ɪn'skrɪpʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*] : words that are written on or cut into a surface ▪ The painting had an *inscription* that read, "To my loving wife." ▪ the *inscription* on a stone monument

in•scru•ta•ble /ɪn'skruːtəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : difficult to understand : causing people to feel curious or confused ▪ an *inscrutable* [=*mysterious*] expression/smile ▪ an *inscrutable* work of art ▪ He was a quiet, *inscrutable* man.

– **in•scru•ta•bil•i•ty** /ɪnˌskruːtə'bɪlәti/ *noun* [*noncount*]

– **in•scru•ta•bly** /ɪn'skruːtəbli/ *adv*

in•seam /'ɪnˌsiːm/ *noun, pl* **-seams** [*count*] *US* : the line where two parts of a pair of pants are sewn together from the top of the inside of the leg to the bottom; *also* : the length of this line ▪ a 32-inch *inseam*

in•sect /'ɪnˌsɛkt/ *noun, pl* **-sects** [*count*]

1 : a small animal that has six legs and a body formed of

three parts and that may have wings ▪ flies, bees, and other *insects* [=(*chiefly US, informal*) *bugs*] ▪ a swarm of flying *insects* — often used before another noun ▪ an *insect* bite ▪ Use plenty of *insect* spray/repellent to keep the mosquitoes from biting you. — see color picture on page C10

2 : an animal (such as a spider) that is similar to an insect — compare ARACHNID

in•sec•ti•cide /ɪnˈsɛktəˌsaɪd/ *noun, pl* **-cides** [*count, noncount*] : a chemical substance that is used to kill insects — **in•sec•ti•cid•al** /ɪnˌsɛktəˈsaɪdl̩/ *adj*

in•sec•ti•vore /ɪnˈsɛktəˌvoɚ/ *noun, pl* **-vores** [*count*] *technical* : an animal that eats insects — **in•sec•tiv•o•rous** /ˌɪnˌsɛkˈtɪvərəs/ *adj*

in•se•cure /ˌɪnsɪˈkjɚ/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : not secure: such as **a** : not confident about yourself or your ability to do things well : nervous and uncomfortable ▪ I feel shy and *insecure* around strangers. — often + *about* ▪ She used to be *insecure about* her height. ▪ He felt *insecure about* the idea of becoming a father. ▪ Many young people are *insecure about* the future. [=they believe that bad things might happen in the future] **b** : not certain to continue or be successful for a long time ▪ an *insecure* investment ▪ He has always held low-paying, *insecure* jobs. [=jobs that people can lose easily] ▪ Most of these families are economically *insecure*. [=they do not have a dependable source of money] **c** : not locked or well protected ▪ One of the building's rear doors was *insecure*. ▪ The country's borders remain *insecure*.

— **in•se•cu•ri•ty** /ˌɪnsɪˈkjɚrəti/ *noun, pl* **-ties** [*noncount*] They share a sense of *insecurity* about the future. ▪ job/economic *insecurity* [*count*] the *insecurities* of teenagers

in•sem•i•nate /ɪnˈsɛməˌneɪt/ *verb* **-nates**; **-nat•ed**; **-nat•ing** [+ *obj*] *technical* : to put semen into (a woman or a female animal) in order to cause pregnancy ▪ She was ***artificially inseminated*** in January.

— **in•sem•i•na•tion** /ɪnˌsɛməˈneɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] — see also ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION

in•sen•si•ble /ɪnˈsɛnsəbəl/ *adj, formal*

1 [*more ~; most ~*] : not able to feel pain, emotions, etc. — often + *to* ▪ He was *insensible to* pain. ▪ *insensible to* fear

2 [*more ~; most ~*] : not aware of something — often + *of* ▪ They were *insensible* [=*unaware*] *of* the danger ahead.

3 : not conscious ▪ She was knocked *insensible* by the collision. ▪ They drank themselves *insensible*. [=they drank until they became unconscious]

— **in•sen•si•bil•i•ty** /ɪnˌsɛnsəˈbɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ his *insensibility* to pain — **in•sen•si•bly** /ɪnˈsɛnsəbli/ *adv* ▪ changes that occur *insensibly* [=without people being aware that they are occurring]

in•sen•si•tive /ɪnˈsɛnsətɪv/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : not sensitive: such as **a** : showing that you do not know or care about the feelings of other people ▪ He's just a rude, *insensitive* jerk. ▪ a racially *insensitive* comment [=an offensive comment about a person's race] ▪ It was *insensitive* of her to say that. **b** : not responding to or caring about problems, changes, or needs ▪ an *insensitive* bureaucracy — often + *to* ▪ The government has been *insensitive to* the public's demands. ▪ Managers must not be *insensitive to* the needs of their employees. **c** *not used before a noun* : not greatly affected by something — usually + *to* ▪ He was *insensitive to* the risks involved in starting a business. ▪ *insensitive to* pain

— **in•sen•si•tive•ly** *adv* ▪ They had acted *insensitively*. — **in•sen•si•tiv•i•ty** /ɪnˌsɛnsəˈtɪvəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ racial *insensitivity*

in•sep•a•ra•ble /ɪnˈsɛpərəbəl/ *adj* : not able to be separated ▪ One problem is *inseparable* from the other. ▪ Growing up, the two of us were *inseparable*. [=we were very close friends; we spent a lot of time together] ▪ We were *inseparable* friends.

— **in•sep•a•ra•bil•i•ty** /ɪnˌsɛpərəˈbɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] — **in•sep•a•ra•bly** /ɪnˈsɛpərəbli/ *adv* ▪ Your future is *inseparably* linked/tied to ours.

[1]in•sert /ɪnˈsɚt/ *verb* **-serts**; **-sert•ed**; **-sert•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to put (something) in something ▪ *Insert* your credit card here. ▪ You need to *insert* a comma between these two words. ▪ *insert* a space between paragraphs — often + *in* or *into* ▪ He *inserted* the key *in* the lock. ▪ She *inserted* a tape *in* the VCR. ▪ *insert* a word *in* a sentence ▪ Try *inserting* a couple of jokes *into* your speech to keep your audience's attention.

2 : to cause (someone) to be involved in an activity ▪ They tried to *insert* themselves into the conversation.

[2]in•sert /ˈɪnˌsɚt/ *noun, pl* **-serts** [*count*] : something that is put into something else ▪ shoe *inserts* ▪ The pot comes with an *insert* for steaming.; *especially* : a small section or piece of paper with information that is placed inside something ▪ advertising *inserts* in the Sunday paper ▪ Each box includes an *insert* explaining the product's proper use.

in•ser•tion /ɪnˈsɚʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**

1 [*noncount*] : the act or process of putting something into something else : the act or process of inserting something ▪ Treatment may include the *insertion* of a tube in his ear.

2 [*count*] : something (such as a comment) that is added to a piece of writing : something that is inserted ▪ The report contains a number of *insertions*.

in–ser•vice /ˈɪnˈsɚvəs/ *adj, always used before a noun* : happening while you are being paid to work ▪ a day of *in-service* training for teachers

[1]in•set /ˈɪnˌsɛt/ *noun, pl* **-sets** [*count*]

1 : a small map or picture that is shown on or next to a larger map or picture in order to show more detail

2 : a piece of something that is added to something larger often for decoration ▪ The floor is decorated with an *inset* of marble tiles. ▪ velvet dresses with silk *insets*

[2]inset *verb* **-sets**; **-set**; **-set•ting** [+ *obj*]

1 : to put (something) in something larger for decoration, to give information, etc. ▪ *inset* a map in a larger map

2 : to put something into (something) often for decoration — usually used as *(be) inset* ▪ The ring *is inset* with diamonds. ▪ floors *inset* with marble tiles

— **inset** *adj* ▪ a table with an *inset* glass top ▪ an *inset* map/photograph

in•shore /ˈɪnˈʃoɚ/ *adj*

1 : moving toward the shore away from the water ▪ an *inshore* breeze

2 : located near the shore ▪ They fish in the shallow *inshore* waters of the Atlantic.

— **inshore** *adv* ▪ The animals move *inshore* to feed.

[1]in•side /ɪnˈsaɪd, ˈɪnˌsaɪd/ *noun, pl* **-sides**

1 [*count*] : an inner side, edge, or surface of something — usually singular ▪ The door can only be locked from the *inside*. — often + *of* ▪ I had a sore on the *inside of* my mouth.

2 a ***the inside*** : an inner part of something (such as a building or machine) ▪ *The inside* of the church is quite beautiful. ▪ I've never seen *the inside* of a computer before. — often plural ▪ *the insides* of a computer **b** [*count*] *informal* : the inner parts (such as the heart and stomach) of a person's body — usually plural ▪ I felt like my *insides* were tied up in knots.

on the inside **1** : on the inner side, edge, or surface of something ▪ The number 22 car tried to pass the leader *on the inside* (of the track). **2** *baseball* : on the side of home plate nearest the batter ▪ The next pitch was a fastball *on the inside*. **3** — used to describe how someone is feeling ▪ She may have seemed happy, but really she was sad *on the inside*. **4** : in a position within an organization or group ▪ The bank robbers must have had help from someone *on the inside*. [=someone working for the bank that was robbed] **5** : in prison ▪ He wondered what life was like *on the inside*.

[2]inside *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : located on or near the inner side, edge, or surface of something ▪ an *inside* wall/corner/door ▪ the *inside* edge of her foot ▪ (*baseball*) He struck out on an *inside* pitch.

2 a : coming from someone within a group or organization : relating to or having information that is known only to a special group of people ▪ *inside* sources/information ▪ He gave us an *inside* view of the situation. ▪ I got the *inside* story from a friend who works there. ▪ It's an ***inside joke***. [=a joke that is understood only by people with special knowledge about something] **b** : done by someone within a group or organization ▪ No one knows who robbed the bank, but the police suspect that it may have been an ***inside job***. [=that it may have been robbed by or with the help of someone who works in the bank]

[3]inside *prep*

1 : in or into the inner part of (something or someone) ▪ We waited *inside* the store. ▪ Several people were trapped *inside* the burning building. ▪ She kept her hands *inside* her pockets. ▪ His feelings were building up *inside* him.

2 a : within the borders or limits of (something) ▪ He lives *inside* the city limits. ▪ They make sure to stay *inside* the law. [=to not break any laws] ▪ She always kept well *inside* [=she drove slower than] the speed limit. **b** : before the end of (a period of time) ▪ Their marriage ended *inside* [=*within*] a year. ▪ We should hear the results *inside* [=in less than] an hour.

3 : belonging to (a group or organization) ▪ Sources *inside* the company indicate that there are disagreements about the change in management.

inside of *chiefly US* : INSIDE ▪ We waited *inside of* the store. ▪ He lives *inside of* the city limits. ▪ The results should be known *inside of* an hour. ▪ information from sources *inside of* the company

⁴inside *adv*

1 : in the inner part of something ▪ I cleaned my car *inside* and out. ▪ The candy is chewy *inside*. ▪ He keeps all his feelings locked up *inside*. [=he does not express his feelings]

2 : in or into the inner part of a building, room, etc. ▪ We went/stayed *inside* during the storm. ▪ Step *inside* and look at our menu.

3 *informal* : in prison ▪ He got put *inside* for burglary.

inside out **1** : so that the inner surface becomes the outer surface ▪ He was wearing his socks *inside out*. ▪ The wind blew my umbrella *inside out*. **2** *informal* : very well and thoroughly ▪ She knows this area *inside out*.

turn (something) inside out *informal* **1** : to cause (a place) to become disorganized while you are trying to find something ▪ I *turned the closet inside out* and still couldn't find those shoes. **2** : to change (something) completely ▪ Her life was turned *inside out* after the accident.

in•sid•er /ɪnˈsaɪdɚ, ˈɪnˌsaɪdɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a person who belongs to a group or organization and has special knowledge about it ▪ Political *insiders* say that she is planning to run for president. ▪ The book gives fans an *insider's* view of Hollywood. — opposite OUTSIDER

insider trading *noun* [*noncount*] *finance* : the illegal activity of buying and selling a company's stocks while using secret information from a person who works for the company

inside track *noun*

the inside track : a position that gives someone an advantage over others in a competition ▪ The owner's son has *the inside track* for the job. ▪ She is on *the inside track* to get a promotion.

in•sid•i•ous /ɪnˈsɪdijəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : causing harm in a way that is gradual or not easily noticed ▪ Most people with this *insidious* disease have no idea that they are infected. ▪ an *insidious* enemy

– **in•sid•i•ous•ly** *adv* ▪ The disease progresses *insidiously*.

– **in•sid•i•ous•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

in•sight /ˈɪnˌsaɪt/ *noun, pl* **-sights**

1 [*noncount*] : the ability to understand people and situations in a very clear way ▪ He is a leader of great *insight*.

2 : an understanding of the true nature of something [*noncount*] The author analyzes the problem with remarkable *insight*. — often + *into* ▪ We need to gain *insight into* the politics of the region. [*count*] I had a sudden *insight*. ▪ Her book provides us with fresh new *insights into* this behavior.

in•sight•ful /ˈɪnˌsaɪtfəl, ɪnˈsaɪtfəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having or showing a very clear understanding of something : having or showing insight ▪ Her analysis of the problem was very *insightful*. ▪ an *insightful* comment/remark ▪ *insightful* leaders

– **in•sight•ful•ly** *adv* – **in•sight•ful•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

in•sig•nia /ɪnˈsɪgnijə/ *noun, pl* **insignia** *or US* **in•sig•ni•as** [*count*] : a badge or sign which shows that a person is a member of a particular group or has a particular rank ▪ Their jackets have the school's *insignia* on the front. ▪ a military *insignia* — sometimes used figuratively ▪ Both attacks bore the *insignia* of the terrorist group.

in•sig•nif•i•cant /ˌɪnsɪgˈnɪfɪkənt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : small or unimportant : not significant ▪ They lost an *insignificant* amount of money. ▪ *insignificant* details ▪ Looking up at the stars always makes me feel so small and *insignificant*. ▪ These problems are ***not insignificant***.

– **in•sig•nif•i•cant•ly** *adv* ▪ an *insignificantly* small amount

– **in•sig•nif•i•cance** /ˌɪnsɪgˈnɪfɪkəns/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ feelings of *insignificance* ▪ (*chiefly Brit*) Your financial debt ***pales into insignificance*** [=seems much smaller] when you compare it with mine.

in•sin•cere /ˌɪnsɪnˈsiɚ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not expressing or showing true feelings : not sincere ▪ He said he was sorry, but I could tell that he was being *insincere*. ▪ *insincere* praise/flattery ▪ an *insincere* apology

– **in•sin•cere•ly** *adv* ▪ smiling *insincerely* – **in•sin•cer•i•ty** /ˌɪnsɪnˈserəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *insincerity* of his apology

in•sin•u•ate /ɪnˈsɪnjəˌweɪt/ *verb* **-ates**; **-at•ed**; **-at•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to say (something, especially something bad or insulting) in an indirect way ▪ Just what are you *insinuating*? [=*implying*] — often + *that* ▪ Are you *insinuating that* I cheated!?

2 *formal* : to gradually make (yourself) a part of a group, a person's life, etc., often by behaving in a dishonest way — usually + *into* ▪ He gradually *insinuated* himself *into* her life. ▪ She has managed to *insinuate* herself *into* the city's highest social circles.

– **insinuating** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ He made an *insinuating* remark/comment about my weight.

in•sin•u•a•tion /ɪnˌsɪnjəˈweɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**

1 [*count*] : a usually bad or insulting remark that is said in an indirect way ▪ I resent her *insinuation* that I can't do it without her help.

2 [*noncount*] : the act of saying something bad or insulting in an indirect way ▪ He criticizes his opponents by *insinuation* rather than directly.

in•sip•id /ɪnˈsɪpəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal*

1 : not interesting or exciting : dull or boring ▪ an *insipid* movie/novel

2 : lacking strong flavor : BLAND ▪ The soup was rather *insipid*.

– **in•sip•id•ly** *adv* – **in•si•pid•i•ty** /ˌɪnsəˈpɪdəti/ *noun* [*noncount*]

in•sist /ɪnˈsɪst/ *verb* **-sists**; **-sist•ed**; **-sist•ing**

1 : to demand that something happen or that someone do something [*no obj*] I didn't want to go, but she *insisted*. ▪ "Come on, let's go." "Oh, all right, if/since you *insist*." [+ *obj*] — usually + *that* ▪ She *insisted that* I (should) go. ▪ The source for my story *insisted that* I not reveal his/her name.

2 [+ *obj*] : to say (something) in a way that is very forceful and does not allow disagreement ▪ She *insists* the money is hers. — usually + *that* ▪ She kept *insisting that* she was right. ▪ He *insists that* these problems are not his fault. ▪ Both men *insist that* they are innocent.

insist on *also* ***insist upon*** [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***insist on/upon (something)*** *or* ***insist on/upon doing (something)*** : to say or show that you believe that something is necessary or very important ▪ My source *insisted on* anonymity. ▪ She *insists on* doing everything her own way. ▪ They adamantly *insisted upon* (their) being included in the meeting. **2** ***insist on/upon doing (something)*** *informal* : to continue doing (something that other people think is annoying or unimportant) ▪ The people sitting next to us *insisted on* talking during the entire movie.

in•sis•tence /ɪnˈsɪstəns/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : the act of demanding something or saying something in a way that does not allow disagreement — often + *on* ▪ I was surprised by their *insistence on* privacy. ▪ her *insistence on* being honest — often + *that* ▪ No one believed him despite his *insistence that* he was innocent. ✧ If you do something ***at the insistence of someone*** or ***at someone's insistence***, you do it because someone tells you that you must do it. ▪ She was fired from her job *at the insistence of* the mayor. ▪ He enrolled in the army *at his father's insistence*.

2 : the quality or state of being insistent ▪ He spoke with great *insistence* of the need for reform. ▪ the *insistence* of the crashing waves

in•sis•tent /ɪnˈsɪstənt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : demanding that something happen or that someone do something ▪ My friends were *insistent* that I go. = They were *insistent* on my going. [=they insisted that I go] ▪ He was *insistent* about paying for dinner. [=he insisted on paying for dinner; he insisted that he should pay for dinner]

2 : happening for a long time and very difficult to ignore ▪ an *insistent* drumbeat ▪ We listened to the *insistent* crashing of waves on the beach.

– **in•sis•tent•ly** *adv* ▪ He spoke very *insistently* of the need for reform.

in•so•far as /ˌɪnsəˈfɑɚ-/ *also* **in so far as** *conj, formal* : to the extent or degree that ▪ She helped us *insofar as* she was able. [=she helped us as much as she could] ▪ The news is good *insofar as* it suggests that a solution may be possible.

in•sole /ˈɪnˌsoʊl/ *noun, pl* **-soles** [*count*]

1 : the bottom of the inside of a shoe

2 : a thin piece of material that you put at the bottom of the inside of a shoe for comfort

in•so•lent /ˈɪnsələnt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *somewhat formal* : rude or impolite : having or showing a lack of respect for other people ▪ an *insolent* [=*impudent, disrespectful*] child ▪

Insolent behavior will not be tolerated.
– **in•so•lence** /ˈɪnsələns/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ The boy was punished for his *insolence*. – **in•so•lent•ly** *adv*

in•sol•u•ble /ɪnˈsɑːljəbəl/ *adj*
1 *formal* : not able to be solved or explained ▪ a seemingly *insoluble* [=(less formally) *unsolvable*] dilemma/mystery/problem
2 *technical* : not able to be dissolved in a liquid ▪ a substance *insoluble* in water — opposite SOLUBLE

in•sol•vent /ɪnˈsɑːlvənt/ *adj* : not having enough money to pay debts ▪ The company has become *insolvent*. [=*bankrupt*] ▪ *insolvent* debtors
– **in•sol•ven•cy** /ɪnˈsɑːlvənsi/ *noun* [*noncount*]

in•som•nia /ɪnˈsɑːmnijə/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the condition of not being able to sleep ▪ She suffers from *insomnia*.

in•som•ni•ac /ɪnˈsɑːmniˌæk/ *noun, pl* **-ni•acs** [*count*] : a person who is not able to sleep : a person with insomnia

in•sou•ci•ance /ɪnˈsuːsijəns/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : a relaxed and calm state : a feeling of not worrying about anything ▪ her youthful *insouciance* [=*nonchalance*]
– **in•sou•ci•ant** /ɪnˈsuːsijənt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ his *insouciant* [=(less formally) *carefree*] charm

in•spect /ɪnˈspɛkt/ *verb* **-spects**; **-spect•ed**; **-spect•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to look at (something) carefully in order to learn more about it, to find problems, etc. ▪ The border guard *inspected* [=*examined*] their passports. ▪ She had the car *inspected* by a mechanic before she bought it. ▪ The candles are *inspected* for damage/defects before being packaged. ▪ After the storm, we went outside to *inspect* the damage.
2 : to officially visit a school, hospital, etc., in order to see if rules are being followed and things are in their proper condition ▪ He *inspected* the soldiers' barracks. ▪ *inspecting* a restaurant for health code violations

in•spec•tion /ɪnˈspɛkʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**
1 : the act of looking at something closely in order to learn more about it, to find problems, etc. : the act of inspecting something [*noncount*] Close *inspection* of the candles revealed some small defects. ▪ ***On closer inspection***, [=when it was examined more closely] the painting proved to be a fake. [*count*] The mechanic made/did a thorough *inspection* of the car. = The mechanic carried out a thorough *inspection*.
2 : an official visit to a school, hospital, etc., in order to see if rules are being followed and things are in their proper condition [*count*] Regular *inspections* are required of all restaurants in the area. [*noncount*] The barracks are ready for *inspection*.

in•spec•tor /ɪnˈspɛktɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*]
1 : a person whose job is to inspect something ▪ a building *inspector* ▪ safety/health *inspectors* [=people who make sure that a place or thing is safe/healthy]
2 : a police officer who is in charge of several police departments

inspector general *noun, pl* **inspectors general** [*count*] : a person who is in charge of a group of inspectors or a system of inspection

in•spi•ra•tion /ˌɪnspəˈreɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**
1 a [*noncount*] : something that makes someone want to do something or that gives someone an idea about what to do or create : a force or influence that inspires someone ▪ Where does the *inspiration* for your art come from? ▪ His paintings take/draw their *inspiration* from nature. ▪ Her early childhood provided (the) *inspiration* for her first novel. ▪ Her courage is a source of *inspiration* to us all. [=her courage makes us all want to be more courageous] ▪ Her most recent plays seem to lack *inspiration*. [=they are not very original or creative] ▪ ***divine inspiration*** [=inspiration that comes from God] **b** [*count*] : a person, place, experience, etc., that makes someone want to do or create something — usually singular ▪ His children are his greatest *inspiration*. ▪ Her courage is an *inspiration* to us all. ▪ She truly is an *inspiration*.
2 : a good idea [*singular*] She had a sudden *inspiration*. They would have the party outdoors! [*noncount*] Deciding to have the party outdoors was sheer *inspiration*.

in•spi•ra•tion•al /ˌɪnspəˈreɪʃənl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : causing people to want to do or create something : giving inspiration ▪ an *inspirational* speaker ▪ Her courage is *inspirational*.

in•spire /ɪnˈspajɚ/ *verb* **-spires**; **-spired**; **-spir•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to make (someone) want to do something : to give (someone) an idea about what to do or create ▪ He *inspired* generations of future scientists. ▪ Her courage has *inspired* us. — often followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ She has *inspired* us *to live* better lives. ▪ Her early childhood *inspired* her *to write* her first novel.
2 : to cause (something) to happen or be created ▪ His discoveries *inspired* a whole new line of scientific research. ▪ Her first novel was *inspired* by her early childhood.
3 : to cause someone to have (a feeling or emotion) ▪ The news *inspired* hope that the war might end soon. ▪ His unusual management style does not *inspire* confidence. [=it makes people worry about his ability to manage properly]

inspired *adj*
1 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : very good or clever ▪ She gave an *inspired* performance. ▪ He was an *inspired* choice for the role. ▪ an *inspired* guess — opposite UNINSPIRED
2 : having a particular cause or influence ▪ Her comments were politically *inspired*. [=they were made for political reasons] — often used in combination ▪ Italian-*inspired* architecture

inspiring *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : causing people to want to do or create something or to lead better lives ▪ an *inspiring* leader ▪ His generosity is *inspiring*. ▪ an *inspiring* [=*inspirational*] true story of one family's struggles to overcome poverty — opposite UNINSPIRING
– **in•spir•ing•ly** *adv* ▪ He is *inspiringly* optimistic.

in•sta•bil•i•ty /ˌɪnstəˈbɪlətiˌ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the quality or state of being unstable: such as **a** : the state of being likely to change ▪ Investors are worried about the current *instability* of the stock market. ▪ political/social *instability* **b** : the tendency to change your behavior very quickly or to react to things in an extremely emotional way ▪ The patient has a history of emotional/mental *instability*.

in•stall /ɪnˈstɑːl/ *verb* **-stalls**; **-stalled**; **-stall•ing**
1 : to make (a machine, a service, etc.) ready to be used in a certain place [+ *obj*] New locks were *installed* on all the doors. ▪ We thought about *installing* a new phone system. ▪ a newly *installed* door ▪ The computer comes with the software already *installed*. [*no obj*] The software *installs* easily/automatically on your hard drive.
2 [+ *obj*] : to put (someone) in an official or important job ▪ The college recently *installed* its first woman president.
3 [+ *obj*] : to cause (someone) to be or stay in a particular place ▪ He *installed* himself on the leather couch. [=he sat down on the couch and stayed there] ▪ They were temporarily *installed* in the guest bedroom.
– **in•stall•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ a professional carpet *installer*

in•stal•la•tion /ˌɪnstəˈleɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**
1 [*noncount*] : the act or process of making a machine, a service, etc., ready to be used in a certain place : the act of installing something ▪ The cable company offers lower prices and free *installation*. ▪ These products are designed for easy *installation*.
2 [*singular*] : a ceremony in which someone is put in an official or important job ▪ Her *installation* as president will take place tomorrow.
3 [*count*] : something (such as a piece of equipment) that is put together and made ready for use ▪ The room contained the company's large computer *installation*.
4 [*count*] : a place that is used for training soldiers, keeping military supplies and machinery, etc. ▪ bases, forts, training camps, and other army *installations*
5 [*count*] : a work of art that usually has several parts (such as a sculpture, lights, and sound) and that is usually shown in a large space

in•stall•ment (*US*) *also chiefly Brit* **in•stal•ment** /ɪnˈstɑːlmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments**
1 : any one of a series of small payments that you make over a long time until you have paid the total cost of something [*count*] He just paid the last *installment* of a $20,000 loan. ▪ We are paying for the computer in *installments*. [*noncount*] (*US*) We are paying ***on installment***.
2 [*count*] : any one of several parts of a long book, television program, etc., that are published or shown over a period of time ▪ The first *installment* of the five-part series will appear tonight at ten o'clock.

installment plan *noun, pl* ~ **plans** [*count*] *US* : a way of paying for something by making a series of small payments over a long time ▪ We used an *installment plan* to buy the furniture. ▪ We bought it ***on the installment plan***. — called also (*Brit*) *hire purchase*

in•stance /ˈɪnstəns/ *noun, pl* **-stanc•es** [*count*] : an example of a particular type of action or situation : an occasion of

something happening ▪ an *instance* of great courage ▪ These delays are just another *instance* of bureaucratic inefficiency. ▪ We have seen too many *instances* [=*cases*] in which poor families have had to leave their homes. ▪ In most *instances* the disease can be controlled by medication. ▪ They have decided not to oppose the decision in this *instance*.

for instance : as an example : for example ▪ Lack of insurance is a problem for a lot of older people, like my grandmother, *for instance*. ▪ Now, take this car, *for instance*.

in the first instance *formal* : before other events happen : as the first thing in a series of actions ▪ You will be seen *in the first instance* by your own doctor who may then send you to a specialist.

[1]in•stant /ˈɪnstənt/ *noun, pl* **-stants** [*count*] : a very short period of time : MOMENT ▪ For an *instant*, I forgot where I was. ▪ The ride was over ***in an instant***. ▪ I knew it was him ***the instant (that)*** [=*as soon as*] I heard his voice. ▪ Come in the house, ***this instant***! [=*right now, immediately*]

[2]instant *adj*

1 : becoming something very quickly ▪ The movie was an *instant* hit/sensation/success. ▪ He became an *instant* celebrity with the publication of his first novel. ▪ Her trip made her an *instant* expert on the region. [=it made her believe that she knew everything about the region]

2 : happening or done without delay : IMMEDIATE ▪ We got an *instant* response from the company. ▪ The Internet provides *instant* access to an enormous amount of information. ▪ They took an *instant* dislike to each other. [=they immediately disliked each other] ▪ He expects *instant* gratification.

3 *of food* : able to be made very quickly : partially prepared by the manufacturer so that final preparation is quick and easy ▪ Is this coffee *instant* or regular? ▪ *instant* pudding/rice

in•stan•ta•neous /ˌɪnstənˈteɪnijəs/ *adj* : happening very quickly : happening in an instant ▪ We got an almost *instantaneous* response from the company. ▪ Their deaths were *instantaneous*.

– **in•stan•ta•neous•ly** *adv* ▪ They died *instantaneously*.

in•stant•ly /ˈɪnstəntli/ *adv* : without delay : IMMEDIATELY ▪ His voice is *instantly* recognizable. ▪ They *instantly* fell in love. ▪ She was killed *instantly* when her car hit a tree.

instant messaging *noun* [*noncount*] : a system for sending messages quickly over the Internet from one computer to another computer

– **instant message** *noun, pl* ~ **-sages** [*count*] ▪ We sent each other *instant messages* all night.

instant replay *noun, pl* ~ **-plays** *US* : a recording of an action in a sports event that can be shown on television immediately after the original play happens [*count*] They showed the winning goal again in an *instant replay*. [*noncount*] We watched the goal again on *instant replay*. — called also (*Brit*) *action replay*

in•stead /ɪnˈstɛd/ *adv* — used to say that one thing is done or that one thing or person is chosen when another is not chosen, cannot be done, etc. ▪ I was going to write you an e-mail, but I decided to call *instead*. ▪ I couldn't afford a new car. *Instead*, I bought a used one. ▪ I don't have any milk—do you mind juice *instead*? ▪ John couldn't attend the conference so Mary went *instead*. [=*in his place*] ▪ They didn't choose me: they chose her *instead*. ▪ She didn't want to live in the city and longed *instead* for the peace and quiet of the country. — often + *of* ▪ I decided to call *instead of* writing. [=to call and not write] ▪ *Instead of* buying a new car, I bought a used one. ▪ They chose her *instead of* [=*rather than*; *and not*] me. ▪ He had juice *instead of* milk.

in•step /ˈɪnˌstɛp/ *noun, pl* **-steps** [*count*]

1 : the raised middle part of the top of your foot between the toes and the ankle — see picture at FOOT

2 : the part of a shoe, sock, etc., that fits over the instep

in•sti•gate /ˈɪnstəˌgeɪt/ *verb* **-gates**; **-gat•ed**; **-gat•ing** [+ *obj*] : to cause (something) to happen or begin ▪ There has been an increase in the amount of violence *instigated* by gangs. ▪ She blamed him for *instigating* [=*starting*] the argument. ▪ The government has *instigated* an investigation into the cause of the accident.

– **in•sti•ga•tor** /ˈɪnstəˌgeɪtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*] ▪ the *instigators* of the violence

in•sti•ga•tion /ˌɪnstəˈgeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the act of causing something to happen or begin : the act of instigating something ▪ the *instigation* of divorce proceedings ✧ Something that is done ***at the instigation of someone*** or ***at someone's instigation*** is done because that person causes it to be done. ▪ He was hired *at the instigation of* the company's president. ▪ The changes were made *at her instigation*.

in•still (*US*) *or Brit* **in•stil** /ɪnˈstɪl/ *verb* **-stills**; **-stilled**; **-still•ing** [+ *obj*] : to gradually cause someone to have (an attitude, feeling, etc.) ▪ *instill* character/discipline — usually + *in* or *into* ▪ They have *instilled* a love of music *in* their children. ▪ The coach is trying to *instill in/into* the players a feeling of confidence.

in•stinct /ˈɪnˌstɪŋkt/ *noun, pl* **-stincts**

1 a : a way of behaving, thinking, or feeling that is not learned : a natural desire or tendency that makes you want to act in a particular way [*count*] Our first *instinct* was to run. ▪ Cats possess a natural hunting *instinct*. ▪ Seeing the baby aroused all her maternal *instincts*. [*noncount*] The decision was based on (gut) *instinct*. — see also KILLER INSTINCT **b** : something you know without learning it or thinking about it [*count*] Her *instincts* told her that something was wrong. [=she believed that something was wrong even though there was no obvious reason to believe it] ▪ You have to learn to trust/follow your *instincts*. [=to trust your feelings about what is right or true even when you cannot be sure that it is right or true] ▪ He has been guided throughout his career by his political *instincts*. [*noncount*] Mere *instinct* alerted her to the danger. ▪ He knew ***by instinct*** what not to say. ▪ She seemed to know *by instinct* that something was wrong. — compare INTUITION

2 [*count*] : a natural ability ▪ He has a strong survival *instinct*. ▪ an athlete with good *instincts* — often + *for* ▪ He has a strong *instinct for* survival. ▪ She has a natural *instinct for* making the right decisions in her job. — sometimes followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ a strong *instinct to survive*

in•stinc•tive /ɪnˈstɪŋktɪv/ *adj* : relating to or based on instinct : based on feelings or desires that do not come from thinking or learning ▪ Cats have an *instinctive* desire to hunt. ▪ an *instinctive* reaction/response ▪ *instinctive* behavior

– **in•stinc•tive•ly** *adv* ▪ She felt *instinctively* that something was wrong. = *Instinctively*, she felt (that) something was wrong. ▪ He knew *instinctively* what not to say.

in•stinc•tu•al /ɪnˈstɪŋkʧəwəl/ *adj* : relating to or based on instinct : INSTINCTIVE ▪ *instinctual* behaviors

[1]in•sti•tute *noun, pl* **-tutes** [*count*] : an organization created for a particular purpose (such as research or education) ▪ They founded an *institute* for research into the causes of mental illness. ▪ an art *institute* ▪ a technical *institute* ▪ the Massachusetts *Institute* of Technology

[2]in•sti•tute /ˈɪnstəˌtu:t, *Brit* ˈɪnstəˌtju:t/ *verb* **-tutes**; **-tut•ed**; **-tut•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to begin or create (something, such as a new law, rule, or system) ▪ By *instituting* these programs, we hope to improve our children's education. ▪ They have *instituted* new policies to increase public safety. ▪ The organization was *instituted* [=*established*] in 1910.

in•sti•tu•tion /ˌɪnstəˈtu:ʃən, *Brit* ˌɪnstəˈtju:ʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**

1 [*count*] **a** : an established organization ▪ an educational/academic *institution* ▪ banks and other financial *institutions* ▪ an *institution* of higher learning **b** : a place where an organization takes care of people for a usually long period of time ▪ She committed herself to a ***mental institution***. [=a hospital for people with mental or emotional problems] ▪ a ***correctional institution*** [=a prison]

2 [*count*] **a** : a custom, practice, or law that is accepted and used by many people ▪ Family visits are a Thanksgiving *institution*. ▪ She's not interested in the *institution* of marriage. ▪ the *institution* of slavery **b** : someone or something that is very well known and established in a particular field or place ▪ He is an *institution* in local politics. [=he has participated in local politics for such a long time that people consider him to be a regular part of local politics] ▪ The play has become something of an *institution* on Broadway.

3 [*noncount*] : the act of beginning or creating something (such as a new law, rule, or system) : the act of instituting something ▪ the *institution* of new rules and regulations

– **in•sti•tu•tion•al** /ˌɪnstəˈtu:ʃənl̩, *Brit* ˌɪnstəˈtju:ʃənl̩/ *adj* ▪ *institutional* power ▪ *institutional* funds ▪ *institutional* living ▪ *institutional* care

in•sti•tu•tion•al•ize *also Brit* **in•sti•tu•tion•al•ise** /ˌɪnstəˈtu:ʃənəˌlaɪz, *Brit* ˌɪnstəˈtju:ʃənəˌlaɪz/ *verb* **-iz•es**; **-ized**; **-iz•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to cause (a custom, practice, law, etc.) to become accepted and used by many people : to establish (something) as an institution ▪ It will take time to *institutionalize* these reforms.

2 : to put (someone, such as a mentally ill person) in an institution (sense 1b) ▪ They had to *institutionalize* their youngest

son. ▪ She was *institutionalized* for seven years.
– **in•sti•tu•tion•al•i•za•tion** *also Brit* **in•sti•tu•tion•al•i•sa•tion** /ˌɪnstəˌtuːʃənələˈzeɪʃən, *Brit* ˌɪnstəˌtjuːʃənəˌlaɪˈzeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

institutionalized *also Brit* **institutionalised** *adj*
1 a : created and controlled by an established organization ▪ *institutionalized* housing ▪ *institutionalized* religion **b :** established as a common and accepted part of a system or culture ▪ an *institutionalized* practice ▪ *institutionalized* beliefs and values ▪ protests against *institutionalized* racism
2 [*more ~; most ~*] — used to describe a person who has been living in an insitution (such as a prison) for a very long time and is no longer able to live an independent life in the outside world ▪ After 20 years in prison, he had become completely *institutionalized*.

in–store /ˈɪnˈstoɚ/ *adj* : existing, happening, or available in a store ▪ *in-store* displays/advertising ▪ *in-store* cafés

in•struct /ɪnˈstrʌkt/ *verb* **-structs; -struct•ed; -struct•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal*
1 : to teach (someone) a subject, skill, etc. — usually + *in* or *on* ▪ His friend *instructed* him *in* English. ▪ Many doctors are *instructing* their patients *on* the importance of exercise. ▪ She *instructed* us *on* how to interpret the text.
2 a : to give (someone) an order or command ▪ She *instructed* us that we were to remain in our seats. — usually followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ She *instructed* us *to remain* in our seats. — often used as *(be) instructed* ▪ We were *instructed to remain* in our seats. **b** *law* : to give an order or an explanation of a law to (a jury) ▪ The judge *instructed* the jury that they should disregard the testimony of the last witness.
3 *Brit* : to hire (a lawyer) to represent you in a legal case ▪ She advised him to *instruct* a solicitor.

in•struc•tion /ɪnˈstrʌkʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**
1 [*count*] **a :** a statement that describes how to do something ▪ You should read each *instruction* carefully. — usually plural ▪ Our teacher gave us *instructions* for building the model. = Our teacher gave us *instructions* on how to build the model. ▪ The manual provides complete/detailed *instructions* [=*directions*] for installing the software. ▪ an *instruction* manual **b :** an order or command ▪ Their *instruction* was to deliver the package by five o'clock. — usually plural ▪ We had *instructions* not to admit anyone. ▪ I gave you explicit *instructions* to be here by six o'clock. ▪ Don't you know how to follow *instructions*? [=*directions*] ▪ I did everything according to your *instructions*.
2 [*noncount*] : the action or process of teaching : the act of instructing someone ▪ The after-school program offers/provides reading *instruction* to students who need it. — often + *in* ▪ The students are receiving *instruction in* algebra.
3 [*count*] *computers* : a set of letters, numbers, etc., that tells a computer to do something ▪ The computer can handle one million *instructions* per second.

in•struc•tion•al /ɪnˈstrʌkʃənl̩/ *adj, always used before a noun* : giving information about how to do or use something : providing instruction ▪ We need more *instructional* materials in our classrooms. ▪ *instructional* videos ▪ These models are used for *instructional* purposes.

in•struc•tive /ɪnˈstrʌktɪv/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : providing knowledge or information : helping to instruct someone ▪ It was very *instructive* [=*informative, educational*] to watch the doctors work. ▪ an interesting and *instructive* lesson

in•struc•tor /ɪnˈstrʌktɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*]
1 : a person who teaches a subject or skill : someone who instructs people ▪ a swimming/driving *instructor*
2 *US* : a teacher in a college or university who is not a professor ▪ He's a poetry *instructor* at a local community college.

in•stru•ment /ˈɪnstrəmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments** [*count*]
1 : a tool or device used for a particular purpose ▪ *instruments* of torture ▪ The murder weapon was a ***blunt instrument***. [=an object without sharp edges or points]; *especially* : a tool or device designed to do careful and exact work ▪ surgical/laboratory *instruments* ***synonyms*** see [1]IMPLEMENT
2 : a device that measures something (such as temperature or distance) ▪ an *instrument* designed to measure the Earth's atmosphere ▪ Part of her training as a pilot involved learning to fly by *instruments*. [=learning to fly only by looking at the instruments in the airplane]
3 : a device that is used to make music ▪ The piano was his favorite musical *instrument*. ▪ Do you play any *instruments*? — see also WIND INSTRUMENT
4 : someone or something that can be used to do or achieve something ▪ Movies can be useful *instruments* of social change. [=movies can be used to cause social change] ▪ She believed that she was an *instrument* of God. [=she believed that God was using her to do things; she believed that God was acting through her]
5 *law* : an official document that shows legal rights or duties ▪ a mortgage *instrument* ▪ stocks, bonds, and other ***financial instruments***

in•stru•men•tal /ˌɪnstrəˈmɛntl̩/ *adj*
1 [*more ~; most ~*] : very important in helping or causing something to happen or be done — often + *in* ▪ He was *instrumental in* organizing the club. = He played an *instrumental* part/role *in* organizing the club. ▪ Her influence was *instrumental in* bringing the painting to the museum.
2 *music* : written for or performed on musical instruments : not including singing ▪ They played *instrumental* music at the wedding. ▪ an *instrumental* version of a song
– **in•stru•men•tal•ly** /ˌɪnstrəˈmɛntl̩i/ *adv* ▪ an *instrumentally* and vocally beautiful song ▪ He was *instrumentally* involved in the organization of the club.

in•stru•men•tal•ist /ˌɪnstrəˈmɛntl̩ɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] : a person who plays a musical instrument ▪ a talented *instrumentalist*

in•stru•men•ta•tion /ˌɪnstrəmənˈteɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : a way of writing or arranging music so that it can be performed in a particular style or by particular instruments ▪ jazz *instrumentation*
2 : a set of instruments ▪ There was a problem with the airplane's *instrumentation*.

instrument panel *noun, pl* **~ -els** [*count*] : a flat surface across the front of an airplane's cockpit that contains the instruments used to fly the plane — compare DASHBOARD

in•sub•or•di•nate /ˌɪnsəˈboɚdənət/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal* : not obeying authority : refusing to follow orders ▪ His behavior was unprofessional and *insubordinate*. ▪ an *insubordinate* attitude
– **in•sub•or•di•na•tion** /ˌɪnsəˌboɚdəˈneɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ She was fired for gross *insubordination*.

in•sub•stan•tial /ˌɪnsəbˈstænʃəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : not substantial: such as **a :** not large or important ▪ Their contribution to the fund was *insubstantial*. ▪ a very *insubstantial* [=*small*] amount of money ▪ *insubstantial* differences **b :** not strong or solid ▪ The scarf is beautiful but too thin and *insubstantial* [=*flimsy*] to keep you warm. **c :** not real : not made of a real substance ▪ an *insubstantial* [=*imaginary*] place ▪ as *insubstantial* as a ghost
– **in•sub•stan•ti•al•i•ty** /ˌɪnsəbˌstænʃiˈæləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *insubstantiality* of the fabric/evidence

in•suf•fer•able /ɪnˈsʌfrəbəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : very bad or unpleasant : too unpleasant to deal with or accept ▪ I can't take any more of her *insufferable* arrogance. ▪ He's an *insufferable* bore. ▪ *insufferable* [=*unbearable, intolerable*] heat
– **in•suf•fer•ably** /ɪnˈsʌfrəbli/ *adv* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ an *insufferably* arrogant woman

in•suf•fi•cient /ˌɪnsəˈfɪʃənt/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *somewhat formal* : not having or providing enough of what is needed : not sufficient ▪ The case was thrown out because of *insufficient* evidence. — often followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ There was *insufficient* evidence *to prove* their case. — often + *for* ▪ His income was *insufficient for* the family's needs.
– **in•suf•fi•cien•cy** /ˌɪnsəˈfɪʃənsi/ *noun, pl* **-cies** [*count, noncount*] ▪ an *insufficiency* [=*deficiency*] of evidence – **in•suf•fi•cient•ly** *adv* ▪ *insufficiently* strong evidence

in•su•lar /ˈɪnsʊlɚ, *Brit* ˈɪnsjʊlə/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : separated from other people or cultures : not knowing or interested in new or different ideas ▪ an *insular* [=*isolated*] group ▪ the *insular* world of boarding schools ▪ an *insular* [=*narrow*] way of thinking
– **in•su•lar•i•ty** /ˌɪnsʊˈlerəti, *Brit* ˌɪnsjʊˈlærəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *insularity* of the boarding school world

in•su•late /ˈɪnsəˌleɪt, *Brit* ˈɪnsjʊˌleɪt/ *verb* **-lates; -lat•ed; -lat•ing**
1 : to add a material or substance to (something) in order to stop heat, electricity, or sound from going into or out of it [+ *obj*] They used a special type of fiberglass to *insulate* the attic. [*no obj*] a material that is able to *insulate* against cold
2 [+ *obj*] : to prevent (someone or something) from dealing with or experiencing something : to keep (someone or something) separate from something unpleasant, dangerous, etc. ▪ The company has tried to *insulate* itself from the region's political turmoil. ▪ I wish I could *insulate* my children from/against painful experiences.

– **insulated** *adj* ▪ *insulated* windows and doors ▪ an *insulated* ceiling ▪ *insulated* wires ▪ Our heating bills are high because our house is poorly *insulated*.

in•su•la•tion /ˌɪnsəˈleɪʃən, *Brit* ˌɪnsjʊˈleɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : a material or substance that is used to stop heat, electricity, or sound from going into or out of something : a material that insulates something ▪ They used fiberglass *insulation*.
2 a : the quality or state of being insulated ▪ These materials provide the *insulation* needed in cold weather. **b** : the act of insulating something ▪ I hired them to do the *insulation* of the attic. [=to insulate the attic]

in•su•la•tor /ˈɪnsəˌleɪtɚ ˈɪnsjʊˌleɪtə/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*] : a material that allows little or no heat, electricity, or sound to go into or out of something ▪ Metal is not a good *insulator*.

in•su•lin /ˈɪnsələn, *Brit* ˈɪnsjʊlən/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : a substance that your body makes and uses to turn sugar into energy ✧ If your body does not produce enough insulin, you will develop diabetes. ▪ His *insulin* level is too low.

[1]in•sult /ɪnˈsʌlt/ *verb* **-sults**; **-sult•ed**; **-sult•ing** [+ *obj*] : to do or say something that is offensive to (someone) : to do or say something that shows a lack of respect for (someone) ▪ She felt they had *insulted* her by repeatedly ignoring her questions. ▪ We were greatly *insulted* by his rudeness. ▪ They're understandably *insulted* when no one asks for their opinion on a matter that affects them so much. ▪ You're saying those photos are real? Don't ***insult my intelligence*** [=don't treat me as though I am stupid; don't expect me to believe those photos are real]

[2]in•sult /ˈɪnˌsʌlt/ *noun, pl* **-sults** [*count*] : a rude or offensive act or statement : something that insults someone ▪ The fans hurled/shouted *insults* at the referee as he walked off the field after the game. ▪ Their decision to cancel the project was an *insult* to all my hard work. ▪ They got into a fight over a minor *insult*. ▪ We could hear them angrily trading/exchanging *insults* (with each other). ▪ The assignment was an *insult* to our intelligence. [=the assignment was too simple]
add insult to injury : to do or say something that makes a bad situation even worse for someone ▪ Most people were forced to work longer hours each week, and to *add insult to injury*, the company decided not to give pay raises.

insulting *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : rude or offensive : showing a lack of respect ▪ an *insulting* remark/attitude ▪ *insulting* language — sometimes + *to* ▪ jokes/lyrics that are *insulting to* women
– **in•sul•ting•ly** /ɪnˈsʌltɪŋli/ *adv* ▪ an *insultingly* simplistic plot

in•su•per•a•ble /ɪnˈsuːpərəbəl, *Brit* ɪnˈsjuːpərəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal, of a problem, difficulty, etc.* : impossible to solve or get control of : impossible to overcome ▪ They succeeded despite some nearly *insuperable* [=*insurmountable*] difficulties. ▪ *insuperable* barriers

in•sup•port•able /ˌɪnsəˈpoɚtəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : more or worse than can be dealt with or accepted ▪ *insupportable* [=*insufferable, intolerable*] behavior ▪ an *insupportable* [=*unbearable*] burden

in•sur•ance /ɪnˈʃɚrəns/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : an agreement in which a person makes regular payments to a company and the company promises to pay money if the person is injured or dies, or to pay money equal to the value of something (such as a house or car) if it is damaged, lost, or stolen ▪ life *insurance* ▪ *insurance* against theft or damage ▪ health/medical *insurance* ▪ auto *insurance* ▪ He was very glad that he had ***taken out insurance on*** the boat. [=that he had insured the boat] — see also NATIONAL INSURANCE
2 a : the amount of money a person regularly pays an insurance company as part of an insurance agreement ▪ What's the monthly *insurance* on your car? [=how much money do you pay each month for insurance for your car?] **b** : the amount of money that a person receives from an insurance company ▪ After the fire, we used the *insurance* (money) to buy a new house.
3 : the business of providing insurance ▪ She has a job in *insurance*. ▪ I work for an *insurance* company.
4 : protection from bad things that may happen in the future — usually + *against* ▪ Education provides *insurance against* instability in the job market. ▪ The contract provides *insurance against* future price changes.

insurance adjuster *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] *US* : a person who works for an insurance company and whose job is to decide how much money the company will pay people when they are injured or when their property is damaged, lost, or stolen — called also (*Brit*) *loss adjuster*

insurance agent *noun, pl* ~ **agents** [*count*] : a person whose job is to provide people with insurance — called also *insurance broker*

insurance policy *noun, pl* ~ **-cies** [*count*] : [2]POLICY

in•sure /ɪnˈʃɚ/ *verb* **-sures**; **-sured**; **-sur•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 a : to buy insurance for (something, such as property or health) ▪ He *insured* the boat. ▪ We *insured* our house against fire and flood damage. **b** : to provide insurance for (something, such as property or health) ▪ I found a company that will *insure* my car for less than I've been paying. ▪ This policy will *insure* your car against theft.; *also* : to provide (someone) with insurance ▪ She had difficulty finding a company that would *insure* her.
2 *US* : to make (something) sure, certain, or safe : ENSURE ▪ They take great care to *insure* the safety and security of their home. ▪ We hope that careful planning will *insure* success.
insure against [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***insure against (something)*** : to make (something bad) less likely to happen usually by planning and preparing ▪ Doctors recommend exercising to *insure against* health problems. ▪ Despite all of our planning, we can't *insure against* bad weather. **2** ***insure (someone) against (something)*** : to protect (someone) from (something bad) ▪ We can't *insure* our children *against* all life's problems.

insured *adj* : having insurance (sense 1) ▪ an *insured* person ▪ *insured* property ▪ All cars in this state must be *insured* in order to legally be driven. ▪ "I lost the ring." "Was it fully *insured*?" — often + *against* ▪ Was your ring *insured against* loss?
the insured *law* : a person who has insurance : a person whose life, health, or property is insured ▪ In the event of an injury, *the insured* will receive payment in 90 days.

in•sur•er /ɪnˈʃɚɹɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a company that provides insurance ▪ In this policy, the *insurer* agrees to pay for all medical expenses. ▪ the country's leading *insurers*

in•sur•gen•cy /ɪnˈsɚʤənsi/ *noun, pl* **-cies** : a usually violent attempt to take control of a government : a rebellion or uprising [*count*] The *insurgency* [=*insurrection*] has continued for three years. [*noncount*] a campaign of *insurgency*

in•sur•gent /ɪnˈsɚʤənt/ *noun, pl* **-gents** [*count*] : a person who fights against an established government or authority ▪ *Insurgents* are trying to gain control of the country's transportation system. — often used before another noun ▪ an *insurgent* group ▪ *insurgent* attacks

in•sur•mount•able /ˌɪnsɚˈmaʊntəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *of a problem, difficulty, etc.* : impossible to solve or get control of : impossible to overcome ▪ They were faced with several *insurmountable* obstacles/problems. ▪ *insurmountable* debt
– **in•sur•mount•ably** /ˌɪnsɚˈmaʊntəbli/ *adv* ▪ *insurmountably* difficult

in•sur•rec•tion /ˌɪnsəˈrɛkʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** : a usually violent attempt to take control of a government [*count*] He led an armed *insurrection* [=*rebellion, uprising*] against the elected government. [*noncount*] acts of *insurrection*
– **in•sur•rec•tion•ary** /ˌɪnsəˈrɛkʃəˌneri, *Brit* ˌɪnsəˈrɛkʃn̩ri/ *adj* ▪ *insurrectionary* violence ▪ an *insurrectionary* group
– **in•sur•rec•tion•ist** /ˌɪnsəˈrɛkʃənɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] ▪ a group of armed *insurrectionists*

in•tact /ɪnˈtækt/ *adj* : not broken or damaged : having every part ▪ The house survived the war *intact*. ▪ After 25 years, their friendship remained *intact*.

in•take /ˈɪnˌteɪk/ *noun, pl* **-takes**
1 : the amount of something (such as food or drink) that is taken into your body [*noncount*] You should limit your daily *intake* of fats and sugars. [*count*] a larger *intake* of fluids ▪ the recommended daily *intakes* of selected vitamins
2 [*count*] : the act of taking something (such as air) into your body ▪ a sudden *intake* of breath
3 [*count*] : a place or part where liquid or air enters something (such as an engine) ▪ the fuel *intake*
4 *Brit* : the number of things or people that are taken into something (such as an organization) [*count*] The new *intake* of Labour MPs includes many women. [*noncount*] The school's *intake* of students has increased in recent years.

in•tan•gi•ble /ɪnˈtænʤəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not made of physical substance : not able to be touched : not tangible ▪ Leadership is an *intangible* asset to a company. ▪ an *intangible* benefit
– **intangible** *noun, pl* **-gibles** [*count*] ▪ Success may depend upon such *intangibles* as talent and experience.

in•te•ger /'ɪntɪʤɚ/ *noun, pl* **-gers** [*count*] *mathematics* : any number that is not a fraction or decimal : any whole number or its negative ▪ positive and negative *integers* ▪ Both 10 and -10 are *integers*. — compare WHOLE NUMBER

in•te•gral /'ɪntɪgrəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : very important and necessary ▪ Industry is an *integral* [=*essential*] part of modern society. ▪ She had become an *integral* part of their lives. — often + *to* ▪ His character is *integral* [=*essential*] *to* the story. ▪ Luck was *integral to* our success.
– **in•te•gral•ly** /'ɪntɪgrəli/ *adv* ▪ She was *integrally* involved in their lives.

in•te•grate /'ɪntəˌgreɪt/ *verb* **-grates**; **-grat•ed**; **-grat•ing**
1 [+ *obj*] **a** : to combine (two or more things) to form or create something ▪ The car's design successfully *integrates* art and/with technology. ▪ She *integrates* elements of jazz and rock in her music. **b** : to make (something) a part of another larger thing — usually + *into* ▪ He feels that these books should be *integrated into* the curriculum. [=should be included in the curriculum]
2 a : to make (a person or group) part of a larger group or organization — usually + *into* [+ *obj*] They have resisted efforts to *integrate* women *into* the military. [*no obj*] Many immigrants have found it difficult to *integrate into* American culture. **b** : to end a policy that keeps people of different races apart in (a place, such as a school) [+ *obj*] She has been a leader in the efforts to *integrate* [=*desegregate*] public schools. [*no obj*] a law requiring schools to *integrate* — opposite SEGREGATE
– **in•te•gra•tion** /ˌɪntə'greɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *integration* of art and/with technology ▪ the *integration* of women into the military ▪ racial/social *integration*

integrated *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : having different parts working together as a unit ▪ an *integrated* system of hospitals ▪ an *integrated* company
2 : allowing all types of people to participate or be included : not segregated ▪ *integrated* schools ▪ an *integrated* neighborhood

integrated circuit *noun, pl* ~ **-cuits** [*count*] *computers* : MICROCHIP

in•te•gra•tion•ist /ˌɪntə'greɪʃənɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] : a person who supports racial integration ▪ *integrationists* versus segregationists

in•teg•ri•ty /ɪn'tɛgrəti/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : the quality of being honest and fair ▪ He has a reputation for *integrity* [=*honesty*] in his business dealings. ▪ He's a man of the highest/greatest *integrity*. ▪ academic *integrity* ▪ I admire her artistic/personal *integrity*. ▪ She had the *integrity* to refuse to compromise on matters of principle.
2 : the state of being complete or whole ▪ Without music, the film loses its *integrity*. ▪ They are trying to preserve the cultural *integrity* of the community. ▪ The earthquake may have damaged the building's structural *integrity*.

in•tel•lect /'ɪntəˌlɛkt/ *noun, pl* **-lects**
1 : the ability to think in a logical way [*noncount*] She is a woman of superior *intellect*. [*count*] She has a sharp/keen *intellect*. ▪ We were required to read a book every week in order to develop our *intellects*. ▪ music that appeals to the *intellect* while still satisfying the emotions
2 [*count*] : a very smart person : a person whose intellect is well developed ▪ He's recognized as one of the greatest *intellects* [=*minds*] currently working in this field.

[1]in•tel•lec•tu•al /ˌɪntə'lɛkʧəwəl/ *adj*
1 : of or relating to the ability to think in a logical way ▪ a child's *intellectual* development/growth ▪ *intellectual* challenges ▪ *intellectual* activities/exercises
2 [*more* ~; *most* ~] **a** : involving serious study and thought ▪ the social and *intellectual* life of the campus ▪ the library's commitment to ***intellectual freedom*** [=freedom that allows people to think about or study what they want] **b** *of a person* : smart and enjoying serious study and thought ▪ a rather *intellectual* poet
– **in•tel•lec•tu•al•ly** /ˌɪntə'lɛkʧəwəli/ *adv* ▪ He has grown both emotionally and *intellectually*.

[2]intellectual *noun, pl* **-als** [*count*] : a smart person who enjoys serious study and thought : an intellectual person ▪ He thinks that he's an *intellectual*, but he doesn't know what he's talking about. ▪ She's a hard worker but she's no great *intellectual*. ▪ a café where artists and *intellectuals* mingle

intellectual property *noun* [*noncount*] *law* : something (such as an idea, invention, or process) that comes from a person's mind ▪ Any song that you write is your *intellectual property*. ▪ the protection of *intellectual property* rights [=the rights of a person who has thought of or invented something that other people want to use, profit from, etc.]

in•tel•li•gence /ɪn'tɛləʤəns/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : the ability to learn or understand things or to deal with new or difficult situations ▪ She impressed us with her superior *intelligence*. ▪ a person of average/normal/high/low *intelligence* ▪ human *intelligence* — see also ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
2 : secret information that a government collects about an enemy or possible enemy ▪ military *intelligence* ▪ gathering *intelligence* about a neighboring country's activities — often used before another noun ▪ *intelligence* sources/operations ▪ a national *intelligence* agency; *also* : a government organization that collects such information ▪ He was appointed (as the) head of army *intelligence*.

intelligence quotient *noun, pl* ~ **-tients** [*count*] : IQ

intelligence test *noun, pl* ~ **tests** [*count*] : a test designed to measure a person's intelligence

in•tel•li•gent /ɪn'tɛləʤənt/ *adj*
1 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having or showing the ability to easily learn or understand things or to deal with new or difficult situations : having or showing a lot of intelligence ▪ highly/very *intelligent* [=*smart*] people ▪ She asked some *intelligent* questions. ▪ He's a hard worker but he's not very *intelligent*. ▪ an *intelligent* decision
2 : able to learn and understand things ▪ *intelligent* beings ▪ Dogs are *intelligent* animals. ▪ They are looking for signs of ***intelligent life*** [=creatures that can learn and understand things] on other planets.
3 : having an ability to deal with problems or situations that resembles or suggests the ability of an intelligent person ▪ *intelligent* software ▪ an *intelligent* machine
– **in•tel•li•gent•ly** *adv* ▪ He spoke/wrote *intelligently* about the changes that are needed. ▪ an *intelligently* designed computer system

in•tel•li•gen•tsia /ɪnˌtɛlə'ʤɛntsijə, ɪnˌtɛlə'gɛntsijə/ *noun* [*singular*] : a group of intelligent and well-educated people who guide or try to guide the political, artistic, or social development of their society — usually used with *the* ▪ Her new book has been embraced by *the intelligentsia*. ▪ His proposals were ridiculed by *the intelligentsia*. ✧ *Intelligentsia* can be used with either a singular or plural verb. ▪ *The intelligentsia* has/have embraced her new book.

in•tel•li•gi•ble /ɪn'tɛləʤəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : able to be understood ▪ an *intelligible* plan ▪ the ability to make complex concepts *intelligible* to the average reader; *especially* : clear enough to be heard, read, etc. ▪ His diaries include passages that are barely *intelligible*. [=almost impossible to read] ▪ Very little of the recording was *intelligible*. — opposite UNINTELLIGIBLE
– **in•tel•li•gi•bil•i•ty** /ɪnˌtɛləʤə'bɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *intelligibility* of the concepts – **in•tel•li•gi•bly** /ɪn'tɛləʤəbli/ *adv* ▪ She has trouble speaking *intelligibly*. [=clearly, in a voice that is loud enough, etc.]

in•tem•per•ate /ɪn'tɛmpərət/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : not temperate: such as **a** : having extreme conditions ▪ an *intemperate* [=extremely hot/cold] climate/zone ▪ *intemperate* [=*severe, stormy*] weather **b** : having or showing a lack of emotional calmness or control ▪ He wrote an *intemperate* [=*angry*] letter to his congresswoman. ▪ an *intemperate* discussion **c** *old-fashioned* : often drinking too much alcohol ▪ an *intemperate* drinker
– **in•tem•per•ance** /ɪn'tɛmpərəns/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ He later regretted the *intemperance* of his words. ▪ the *intemperance* of the weather

in•tend /ɪn'tɛnd/ *verb* **-tends**; **-tend•ed**; **-tend•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 a : to plan or want to do (something) : to have (something) in your mind as a purpose or goal ▪ He *intended* that his daughter would inherit the business. = (*Brit*) He *intended* leaving the business to his daughter. ▪ I didn't *intend* any disrespect. — usually followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ I didn't *intend to show* any disrespect. ▪ He *intended to leave* the business to his daughter. ▪ She clearly *intends to stay* here. ▪ He didn't *intend to hurt* anybody. **b** : to plan for or want (someone or something) to do or be something ▪ We *intended* that she come with us. — usually followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ We *intended* her *to come* with us. ▪ They *intended* the wedding *to be* formal. ▪ If everything goes ***as intended*** [=if everything happens in the way that has been planned], he will graduate this spring.
2 a : to want (something that you control, provide, or have made) to be used for a particular purpose or by a particular person — often followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ The person who do-

nated the computers *intended* them *to be used* in classrooms. — often + *for* ▪ The author *intended* the book *for* adults. — usually used as *(be) intended* ▪ The book *was intended for* adults. ▪ These computers *were intended* [=*meant*] *to be used* in classrooms. ▪ The bullet *was intended for* him. [=the person who shot the gun wanted the bullet to hit him] ▪ The film *was intended to educate* people. ▪ The program *is intended to make* life easier for working parents. — sometimes + *as* ▪ It *was* never *intended as* a substitute for the real thing. **b** : to want (something) to express a particular meaning — usually used as *(be) intended* ▪ What *was intended* by the author? [=what meaning was the author trying to express?] — often + *as* ▪ The comment *was* not *intended* [=*meant*] *as* an insult. ▪ The arrests were *intended as* a warning to other criminals. — often followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ The comment *was* not *intended to be* an insult.

[1]intended *adj* : in your mind as a purpose or goal ▪ He was unable to pursue his *intended* career. [=the career that he wanted/planned to have] ▪ What's your *intended* destination? ▪ The book failed to reach its *intended* audience.

[2]intended *noun, pl* **-eds** [*count*] *old-fashioned* : a person to whom someone is engaged to be married — usually singular ▪ a young man and his *intended*

in•tense /ɪn'tɛns/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]

1 : very great in degree : very strong ▪ *intense* [=*extreme*] heat/cold/pain/pressure ▪ He shielded his eyes from the *intense* flash of light. ▪ She has an *intense* dislike for/of her husband's friend. ▪ *intense* anger

2 a : done with or showing great energy, enthusiasm, or effort ▪ After many years of *intense* study, he received his medical degree. ▪ an *intense* effort ▪ School reform is a subject of *intense* debate. ▪ The work requires *intense* concentration. **b** *of a person* : very serious ▪ He was an *intense* young man who was very determined to do well in school.

– **in•tense•ly** *adv* ▪ an *intensely* ambitious woman ▪ The students competed *intensely* for the prize. ▪ He gazed at her *intensely*.

in•ten•si•fi•er /ɪn'tɛnsəˌfajə/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *grammar* : a word (such as *really* or *very*) that gives force or emphasis to a statement ▪ "So" can function as an *intensifier*, as in "I'm *so* tired." — called also *intensive*

in•ten•si•fy /ɪn'tɛnsəˌfaɪ/ *verb* **-fies**; **-fied**; **-fy•ing**

1 [*no obj*] : to become stronger or more extreme : to become more intense ▪ We could hear the wind howling outside as the storm *intensified*. ▪ The fighting has *intensified*.

2 [+ *obj*] : to make (something) stronger or more extreme : to make (something) more intense ▪ They *intensified* their efforts to increase sales. ▪ an *intensified* search for survivors

– **in•ten•si•fi•ca•tion** /ɪnˌtɛnsəfə'keɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] a process of *intensification* [*singular*] an *intensification* of violence

in•ten•si•ty /ɪn'tɛnsəti/ *noun, pl* **-ties**

1 [*noncount*] : the quality or state of being intense : extreme strength or force ▪ the *intensity* of the sun's rays ▪ the *intensity* of the argument

2 : the degree or amount of strength or force that something has [*count*] hurricanes of different *intensities* [*noncount*] The noise grew in *intensity*. [=the noise became louder] ▪ The sun shone with great *intensity*.

[1]in•ten•sive /ɪn'tɛnsɪv/ *adj*

1 [*more ~; most ~*] : involving very great effort or work ▪ an *intensive* effort ▪ *intensive* study/research ▪ an *intensive* course in business writing

2 *grammar* : giving force or emphasis to a statement ▪ an *intensive* pronoun/adverb

3 *of farming* : designed to increase production without using more land ▪ *intensive* farming/agriculture

– see also CAPITAL-INTENSIVE, LABOR-INTENSIVE

– **in•ten•sive•ly** *adv* ▪ She trained *intensively* for two years.

[2]intensive *noun, pl* **-sives** [*count*] *grammar* : INTENSIFIER

intensive care *noun* [*noncount*] : a section of a hospital where special medical equipment and services are provided for patients who are seriously injured or ill ▪ patients in *intensive care* = patients in the ***intensive care unit*** [=*ICU*]; *also* : the medical care provided in such a section ▪ Her condition will require *intensive care*.

[1]in•tent /ɪn'tɛnt/ *noun, pl* **-tents** [*count*] : the thing that you plan to do or achieve : an aim or purpose ▪ She thinks I'm trying to make things difficult for her, but that's not my *intent*. ▪ What was the the writer's *intent*? ▪ The *intent* of the law is to protect consumers. ▪ He was charged with assault with *intent* to kill.

to all intents and purposes *also US* ***for all intents and purposes*** — used to say that one thing has the same effect or result as something else ▪ Their decision to begin bombing was, *to all intents and purposes*, a declaration of war.

[2]intent *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : showing concentration or great attention ▪ an *intent* gaze

intent on/upon (something) : giving all of your attention and effort to a specific task or goal ▪ She seems *intent on* destroying our credibility. [=she seems to be determined to destroy our credibility] ▪ They were *intent on* their work. [=they were focused on their work]

– **in•tent•ly** *adv* ▪ She listened *intently* to the news report.

in•ten•tion /ɪn'tɛnʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*] : the thing that you plan to do or achieve : an aim or purpose ▪ She announced her *intention* to run for governor. ▪ He seemed to think that I was trying to cause problems, but that was never my *intention*. ▪ He said he loved her, but he actually ***had no intention of*** marrying her. [=he did not intend to marry her] ▪ We ***have every intention of*** continuing with this project [=we intend to continue with this project], whatever the cost. ▪ He bought a dog ***with the intention of*** training it to attack intruders. ▪ He has ***good intentions***, but his suggestions aren't really helpful. ▪ Sometimes plans don't work out well, despite ***the best (of) intentions*** — see also WELL-INTENTIONED

in•ten•tion•al /ɪn'tɛnʃənl/ *adj* : done in a way that is planned or intended : DELIBERATE ▪ an *intentional* drug overdose ▪ an *intentional* and premeditated killing ▪ I apologize for the omission of your name from the list. It was not *intentional*. — opposite UNINTENTIONAL

– **in•ten•tion•al•ly** *adv* ▪ Investigators suspect that the fire was set *intentionally*. ▪ The test is *intentionally* designed to trick students.

in•ter /ɪn'tɚ/ *verb* **-ters**; **-terred**; **-ter•ring** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to bury (a dead body) ▪ a burial site where people have been *interred* for over a thousand years — opposite DISINTER

inter- /ɪntɚ/ *prefix*

1 : between : among : together ▪ *inter*lock ▪ *inter*twine ▪ *inter*relation ▪ *inter*relate

2 : involving two or more ▪ *inter*national ▪ *inter*departmental ▪ *inter*faith

in•ter•act /ˌɪntɚ'ækt/ *verb* **-acts**; **-act•ed**; **-act•ing** [*no obj*]

1 : to talk or do things with other people ▪ They're quiet children who don't *interact* much. — often + *with* ▪ She *interacts with* other children at nursery school.

2 : to act together : to come together and have an effect on each other — often + *with* ▪ When these two drugs *interact* (*with* each other), the results can be deadly.

– **in•ter•ac•tion** /ˌɪntɚ'ækʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*] social *interactions* ▪ the *interactions* between the two drugs [*noncount*] ways to encourage more *interaction* among children

in•ter•ac•tive /ˌɪntɚ'æktɪv/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]

1 : designed to respond to the actions, commands, etc., of a user ▪ *interactive* software ▪ an *interactive* Web site

2 : requiring people to talk with each other or do things together ▪ *interactive* learning

– **in•ter•ac•tive•ly** *adv* – **in•ter•ac•tiv•i•ty** /ˌɪntɚræk'tɪvəti/ *noun* [*noncount*]

in•ter•agen•cy /ˌɪntɚ'eɪʤənsi/ *adj, always used before a noun* : occurring between or involving different government agencies ▪ an *interagency* task force

in•ter alia /ˌɪntɚ'eɪlijə/ *adv, formal* : among other things ▪ The collection of paintings included, *inter alia*, several Rembrandts and several Picassos. [=the collection included several Rembrandts, several Picassos, and other things as well]

in•ter•breed /ˌɪntɚ'bri:d/ *verb* **-breeds**; **-bred** /-'brɛd/; **-breed•ing** : to cause animals of two different species to produce young animals that are a mixture of the two species [+ *obj*] *interbreed* horses with/and donkeys [*no obj*] **horses** *interbreeding* with donkeys

in•ter•cede /ˌɪntɚ'si:d/ *verb* **-cedes**; **-ced•ed**; **-ced•ing** [*no obj*] *formal* : to try to help settle an argument or disagreement between two or more people or groups ▪ Their argument probably would have become violent if I hadn't *interceded*. : to speak to someone in order to defend or help another person ▪ When the boss accused her of lying, several other employees *interceded* on her behalf.

– **in•ter•ces•sion** /ˌɪntɚ'sɛʃən/ *noun, pl* **-sions** [*noncount*] Even the *intercession* of the United Nations failed to bring an end to the war. [*count*] She thanked them for their *intercessions* on her behalf.

in•ter•cept /ˌɪntəˈsɛpt/ *verb* **-cepts**; **-cept•ed**; **-cept•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to stop and take someone or something that is going from one place to another place before that person or thing gets there ▪ Detectives have been *intercepting* her mail. ▪ The police *intercepted* him as he was walking out. ▪ *intercept* a secret message
2 *sports* : to catch or receive (a pass made by an opponent) ▪ He *intercepted* the pass/ball. ▪ (*American football*) The quarterback has been *intercepted* twice. [=two passes thrown by the quarterback have been intercepted]
– **in•ter•cep•tion** /ˌɪntəˈsɛpʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*noncount*] They used a secret code because of the possibility of *interception* by spies. [*count*] He has made 143 passes without an *interception*.

in•ter•cep•tor /ˌɪntəˈsɛptɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*] : a fast military plane or missile used to defend against enemy planes or enemy missiles

[1]in•ter•change /ˈɪntɚˌʧeɪnʤ/ *noun, pl* **-chang•es**
1 : the act of sharing or exchanging things [*count*] a friendly *interchange* [=*exchange*] of ideas [*noncount*] electronic data *interchange*
2 [*count*] : an area where two or more highways meet that is designed to allow traffic to move from one highway to another without stopping

[2]in•ter•change /ˌɪntəˈʧeɪnʤ/ *verb* **-chang•es**; **-changed**; **-chang•ing** [+ *obj*] : to put each of two or more things in the place of the other ▪ We *interchanged* the two tires. ▪ We *interchanged* the front tire with the rear tire. [=we put the front tire on the rear and the rear tire on the front]

in•ter•change•able /ˌɪntəˈʧeɪnʤəbəl/ *adj* : capable of being used in place of each other ▪ These words have similar meanings but they're not (freely) *interchangeable* (with each other).
– **in•ter•change•abil•i•ty** /ˌɪntəˌʧeɪnʤəˈbɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] – **in•ter•change•ably** /ˌɪntəˈʧeɪnʤəbli/ *adv* ▪ He uses the terms *interchangeably*.

in•ter•city /ˌɪntəˈsɪti/ *adj, always used before a noun* : traveling or occurring between cities ▪ *intercity* rail services ▪ *intercity* trade

in•ter•col•le•giate /ˌɪntəkəˈliːʤət/ *adj, always used before a noun, chiefly US* : involving or involved in competition between colleges ▪ *intercollegiate* sports/athletics

in•ter•com /ˈɪntəˌkɑːm/ *noun, pl* **-coms** [*count*] : a system which allows a person speaking into a microphone to be heard on a speaker by people in a different room or area ▪ I heard my name called on the *intercom*. ▪ His secretary's voice came over the *intercom*, telling him that he had a visitor.

in•ter•com•mu•ni•ca•tion /ˌɪntəkəˌmjuːnəˈkeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] : communication between people or groups ▪ *intercommunication* between employees

in•ter•con•nect /ˌɪntəkəˈnɛkt/ *verb* **-nects**; **-nect•ed**; **-nect•ing** : to connect (two or more things) with each other [+ *obj*] The systems are *interconnected* with/by a series of wires. ▪ These political issues are closely *interconnected*. [=*related*] [*no obj*] The lessons are designed to show students how the two subjects *interconnect*. ▪ a series of *interconnecting* stories ▪ *interconnecting* rooms [=rooms that are connected to each other]
– **in•ter•con•nec•tion** /ˌɪntəkəˈnɛkʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count, noncount*]

in•ter•con•ti•nen•tal /ˌɪntɚˌkɑːntəˈnɛntl̩/ *adj*
1 : traveling or occurring between continents ▪ *intercontinental* flights/trade/travel
2 : capable of traveling from one continent to another ▪ an *intercontinental* ballistic missile [=*ICBM*]

in•ter•course /ˈɪntɚˌkoɚs/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : SEXUAL INTERCOURSE
2 *formal* : communication and actions between people ▪ the unspoken rules of social *intercourse*

in•ter•de•nom•i•na•tion•al /ˌɪntɚdɪˌnɑːməˈneɪʃənl̩/ *adj* : involving different religious groups ▪ an *interdenominational* service

in•ter•de•part•ment•al /ˌɪntɚdɪˌpɑɚtˈmɛntl̩/ *adj* : occurring between or involving different departments (as of a college) ▪ *interdepartmental* research

in•ter•de•pen•dent /ˌɪntɚdɪˈpɛndənt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : related in such a way that each needs or depends on the other : mutually dependent ▪ The two nations are politically independent but economically *interdependent*.
– **in•ter•de•pen•dence** /ˌɪntɚdɪˈpɛndəns/ *also* **in•ter•de•pen•den•cy** /ˌɪntɚdɪˈpɛndənsi/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the economic *interdependence* of the two nations – **in•ter•de•pen•dent•ly** *adv* ▪ The nations' economies function *interdependently*.

in•ter•dis•ci•plin•ary /ˌɪntɚˈdɪsəplɘˌneri/ *adj* : involving two or more academic, scientific, or artistic areas of knowledge : involving two or more disciplines ▪ *interdisciplinary* studies

[1]in•ter•est /ˈɪntrəst/ *noun, pl* **-ests**
1 a : a feeling of wanting to learn more about something or to be involved in something [*noncount*] She told us about her lifelong *interest* in music. ▪ I ***have no interest*** in politics. [=I am not interested in politics] ▪ The kids listened to the speaker for a little while, but then ***lost interest***. ▪ The speaker wasn't able to ***hold/keep their interest***. ▪ I've been following his career ***with*** (great) ***interest***. [*singular*] She took/had an active *interest* in the political debate. ▪ He expressed/showed an *interest* in learning more about photography. **b** [*noncount*] : a quality that attracts your attention and makes you want to learn more about something or to be involved in something ▪ The stories about his personal life add *interest* to the book. ▪ He looked through the available magazines, but found nothing ***of interest***. [=nothing interesting] ▪ I thought this article might be *of interest* to you. ▪ We visited many places *of interest* on our vacation. ▪ The price of the ticket was a matter *of interest* to everyone. ▪ a story that has ***human interest*** = a ***human-interest*** story [=a story that is interesting because it involves the experiences of real people]
2 [*count*] : something (such as a hobby) that a person enjoys learning about or doing ▪ Music is one of her many *interests*. ▪ She has a number of ***outside interests***. [=things that she enjoys doing when she is not working]
3 [*count*] — used when discussing what is the best or most helpful thing for someone ▪ It's in your (own) *interest* to keep silent. ▪ The judge decided that it would be in the (best) *interests* of the child to continue living with her mother. ▪ If he refuses to cooperate, he'll be acting against his own *interests*. [=he'll be acting in a way that is harmful to himself] ▪ a policy that is not ***in the national/public interest*** [=that is more likely to harm than to help the nation/public] ▪ The law is intended to ***protect/safeguard the interests of*** people who have no health insurance. ▪ He claims that he ***has her (best) interests at heart***. [=that he is concerned about her and wants to help her] ▪ ***In the interest of*** [=for the sake of] fairness, we decided to get everyone's opinion before making a decision.
4 [*noncount*] **a** : the money paid by a borrower for the use of borrowed money ▪ We pay six percent *interest* on the loan. ▪ The loan was repaid with *interest*. ▪ monthly *interest* payments/charges ▪ *interest* rates ▪ an ***interest-free*** loan [=a loan that the borrower does not have to pay any interest on] **b** : money paid to you by a bank for the money you have in a bank account ▪ He made about $500 in *interest* last year. — see also COMPOUND INTEREST, SIMPLE INTEREST
5 [*count*] : a legal share in a business or property ▪ They offered to buy out his *interest* in the company.
6 ***interests*** [*plural*] : a group financially involved in an industry or business ▪ This law is opposed by the oil *interests*.
– see also SPECIAL INTEREST

[2]interest *verb* **-ests**; **-est•ed**; **-est•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to cause (someone) to want to learn more about something or to become involved in something ▪ Military history doesn't really *interest* me. ▪ It might *interest* you to know that the woman in this photograph is your great-grandmother. ▪ It *interested* me to learn that she had once lived in California.
2 : to persuade (someone) to have, take, or participate *in* (something) ▪ Can I *interest* you *in* a game of tennis? [=would you like to play tennis?] ▪ Could I *interest* you *in* another cup of coffee? [=would you like another cup of coffee?] ▪ The salesman tried to *interest* me *in* a more expensive computer.

interested *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 a : wanting to learn more about something or to become involved in something ▪ The listeners were all greatly/very *interested* in the lecture. ▪ students who are *interested* in archaeology ▪ I'd be *interested* to learn more about his background. ▪ I'm *interested* to hear what you have to say. ▪ I was very *interested* to learn that she had once lived in California. **b** : having the desire to do or have something ▪ Are you *interested* in playing tennis? [=would you like to play tennis?] ▪ Would you be *interested* in another cup of coffee? [=would you like another cup of coffee?] ▪ I asked him if he wanted to play tennis, but he said he wasn't *interested*.
2 : having a direct or personal involvement in something ▪ The plan will have to be approved by all ***interested parties***.

interest group *noun, pl* ~ **groups** [*count*] : a group of people who try to influence politics or the policies of government, business, etc., in a way that helps their own interests — compare PRESSURE GROUP

in•ter•est•ing /ˈɪntrəstɪŋ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : attracting your attention and making you want to learn more about something or to be involved in something : not dull or boring ▪ This is one of the most *interesting* books I've read all year. ▪ It will be *interesting* to see how she decides to spend the money. ▪ This building has an *interesting* history. ▪ I don't find politics very *interesting*. ▪ I found it *interesting* to learn that she had once lived in California. ▪ Most of what he said wasn't *interesting* to me.
– **in•ter•est•ing•ly** *adv* ▪ He was *interestingly* dressed. ▪ *Interestingly* (enough), these animals rarely fight. [=it is interesting that these animals rarely fight]

[1]in•ter•face /ˈɪntɚˌfeɪs/ *noun, pl* **-fac•es** [*count*]
1 : the place or area at which different things meet and communicate with or affect each other ▪ the man-machine *interface* ▪ the *interface* between engineering and science
2 a : a system that is used for operating a computer : a system that controls the way information is shown to a computer user and the way the user is able to work with the computer ▪ The software has a user *interface* that's easy to operate. ▪ a friendly/clunky *interface* **b** : an area or system through which one machine is connected to another machine ▪ We installed an *interface* between the computer and the typesetting machine.

[2]interface *verb* **-faces**; **-faced**; **-fac•ing** : to connect or become connected : to connect by means of an interface [+ *obj*] *interface* a machine with a computer [*no obj*] the point at which the two machines *interface*

in•ter•faith /ˌɪntɚˈfeɪθ/ *adj, always used before a noun* : involving people of different religions ▪ an *interfaith* dialogue

in•ter•fere /ˌɪntɚˈfɪɚ/ *verb* **-feres**; **-fered**; **-fer•ing** [*no obj*] : to become involved in the activities and concerns of other people when your involvement is not wanted ▪ I tried to offer advice without *interfering*. — often + *in* ▪ I'm sick and tired of the way he's always *interfering in* my life. ▪ We shouldn't *interfere* [=*meddle*] *in* the affairs of other countries.
interfere with [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***interfere with (something)*** : to stop or slow (something) : to make (something) slower or more difficult ▪ The drug might *interfere with* a child's physical development. ▪ All of the noise was *interfering with* my concentration. [=was making it hard for me to concentrate] **2** ***interfere with (someone)*** *Brit* : to touch (a child) in a sexual and improper way
– **interfering** *adj* ▪ an *interfering* old busybody
– **interfering** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ I'm sick and tired of all his *interfering*.

in•ter•fer•ence /ˌɪntɚˈfɪrəns/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : involvement in the activities and concerns of other people when your involvement is not wanted : the act of interfering ▪ We had to put up with loud noise and constant *interference* from the neighbors. ▪ *interference* in the affairs of another nation ▪ trying to avoid governmental *interference*
2 : additional signals that weaken or block the main signal in a radio or television broadcast ▪ It was hard to hear the radio program because of all the *interference*. ▪ electrical *interference* ▪ The TV picture had a lot of *interference*.
3 *sports* : the act of illegally hitting or getting in the way of an opponent ▪ a hockey player receiving a penalty for *interference*
run interference *American football* : to run in front of the player who is carrying the ball in order to block opponents — often used figuratively ▪ He was able to survive the scandal only because he had several clever assistants who *ran interference* for him.

in•ter•ga•lac•tic /ˌɪntɚgəˈlæktɪk/ *adj, always used before a noun* : existing or occurring between galaxies ▪ *intergalactic* space/travel

in•ter•gen•er•a•tion•al /ˌɪntɚˌʤɛnəˈreɪʃənl/ *adj* : occurring between or involving people of different age groups ▪ *intergenerational* conflicts

in•ter•gov•ern•men•tal /ˌɪntɚˌgʌvɚnˈmɛntl/ *adj, always used before a noun* : occurring between or involving two or more governments ▪ *intergovernmental* relations ▪ an *intergovernmental* panel

[1]in•ter•im /ˈɪntərəm/ *noun* [*singular*] : a period of time between events : INTERVAL ▪ The regulations are scheduled to change next winter, and ***in the interim*** [=*meanwhile*], we'll be working hard to make all of the appropriate changes.

[2]interim *adj, always used before a noun* : used or accepted for a limited time : not permanent ▪ an *interim* solution ▪ He served as the college's *interim* [=*temporary*] president while the committee searched for a permanent replacement.

[1]in•te•ri•or /ɪnˈtirijɚ/ *adj, always used before a noun*
1 a : located on the inside of something ▪ an *interior* [=*inner*] surface ▪ a large car with lots of *interior* room ▪ *interior* walls **b** : suited for use in the inside or on inside surfaces ▪ *interior* paint ▪ *interior* lights. — opposite [1]EXTERIOR
2 : occurring in the mind ▪ *interior* [=(more commonly) *inner*] thoughts ▪ an ***interior monologue*** [=a section of a novel, story, or play in which a character's inner thoughts are expressed]

[2]interior *noun, pl* **-ors** [*count*]
1 : an inner part, area, or surface ▪ a black car with gray leather *interior* ▪ the *interior* of the house — opposite [2]EXTERIOR
2 : the part of a country that is far from the coast ▪ They traveled deep into the *interior* of Australia.
3 : the events and activities of a country that involve the country itself rather than foreign countries ▪ Secretary of the *Interior*

interior design *noun* [*noncount*] : the art or job of planning how the rooms of a building should be furnished and decorated — called also *interior decoration*

interior designer *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] : a person whose job is to plan how the rooms of a building should be furnished and decorated — called also *interior decorator*

interj *abbr* interjection

in•ter•ject /ˌɪntɚˈʤɛkt/ *verb* **-jects**; **-ject•ed**; **-ject•ing** *formal* : to interrupt what someone else is saying with (a comment, remark, etc.) [+ *obj*] "That's an interesting idea," he *interjected*, "but I don't think you've considered all of the details." ▪ She listened to us, *interjecting* remarks every so often. [*no obj*] If I may *interject*, I have things I'd like to add.

in•ter•jec•tion /ˌɪntɚˈʤɛkʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*] *grammar* : a spoken word, phrase, or sound that expresses sudden or strong feeling ▪ *interjections* such as "oh," "alas," and "wow"

in•ter•lace /ˌɪntɚˈleɪs/ *verb* **-lac•es**; **-laced**; **-lac•ing** : to join together (narrow things, such as strings or branches) by crossing them over and under each other [+ *obj*] *Interlace* the branches and bend them into a circle. [*no obj*] The vines *interlaced* with each other.
– **interlaced** *adj* ▪ *interlaced* fibers/branches

in•ter•link /ˌɪntɚˈlɪŋk/ *verb* **-links**; **-linked**; **-link•ing** : to connect (two or more things) together : LINK [+ *obj*] *interlink* Web sites [*no obj*] The Web sites *interlink*.

in•ter•lock /ˌɪntɚˈlɑːk/ *verb* **-locks**; **-locked**; **-lock•ing** : to connect or lock (two or more things) together [+ *obj*] She *interlocked* her fingers with his. [*no obj*] The pieces of the puzzle *interlock* (with each other).

in•ter•loc•u•tor /ˌɪntɚˈlɑːkjətɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*] *formal* : a person who is having a conversation with you ▪ He often challenges his *interlocutors* [=the people he is speaking to] with difficult questions.

in•ter•lop•er /ˌɪntɚˈloʊpɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a person who is not wanted or welcome by the other people in a situation or place ▪ I had hoped to help my neighbors, but they regarded me as an *interloper*.

in•ter•lude /ˈɪntɚˌluːd/ *noun, pl* **-ludes** [*count*]
1 : a period of time between events or activities ▪ She left for a brief *interlude*. ▪ He has resumed his acting career after a two-year *interlude*.
2 : a brief romantic or sexual meeting or relationship ▪ They always met in the city for their romantic *interludes*.
3 : a short piece of music that is played between the parts of a longer one, a drama, or a religious service ▪ an orchestral *interlude* ▪ a drama with musical *interludes*

in•ter•mar•ry /ˌɪntɚˈmeri/ *verb* **-ries**; **-ried**; **-ry•ing** [*no obj*] : to marry a member of a different racial, social, or religious group ▪ The settlers and the native people seldom *intermarried*.
– **in•ter•mar•riage** /ˌɪntɚˈmerɪʤ/ *noun, pl* **-riag•es** [*count, noncount*]

in•ter•me•di•ary /ˌɪntɚˈmiːdiˌeri/ *noun, pl* **-ar•ies** [*count*] : a person who works with opposing sides in an argument or dispute in order to bring about an agreement ▪ He served as an *intermediary* between the workers and the executives.
– **intermediary** *adj* ▪ He was an *intermediary* agent in the negotiations.

[1]in•ter•me•di•ate /ˌɪntɚˈmiːdijət/ *adj*

1 : occurring in the middle of a process or series ▪ an *intermediate* stage of growth
2 : relating to or having the knowledge or skill of someone who is more advanced than a beginner but not yet an expert ▪ I'm taking *intermediate* French this year. ▪ an *intermediate* swimming class ▪ an *intermediate* swimmer

²intermediate *noun, pl* **-ates** [*count*] : a person who has the knowledge or skill of someone who is more advanced than a beginner but not yet an expert ▪ a class for *intermediates*

in•ter•ment /ɪnˈtɚmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments** [*count, noncount*] *formal* : the act of burying a dead person

in•ter•mez•zo /ˌɪntɚˈmɛtˌsoʊ/ *noun, pl* **-zi** /-ˌsi:/ *or* **-zos** [*count*] : a short part of a musical work (such as an opera) that connects major sections of the work

in•ter•mi•na•ble /ɪnˈtɚmənəbəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *disapproving* : having or seeming to have no end : continuing for a very long time ▪ an *interminable* war ▪ an *interminable* wait
– **in•ter•mi•na•bly** /ɪnˈtɚmənəbli/ *adv* ▪ an *interminably* long wait

in•ter•min•gle /ˌɪntɚˈmɪŋgəl/ *verb* **-min•gles**; **-min•gled**; **-min•gling** : to mix together [+ *obj*] In her short stories, science fiction and romance are *intermingled*. = In her short stories, science fiction is *intermingled* with romance. [*no obj*] In her short stories, science fiction and romance *intermingle*. ▪ The colors *intermingle* perfectly (with each other) in the painting.

in•ter•mis•sion /ˌɪntɚˈmɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-sions** [*count*] : a short break between the parts of a performance (such as a play, movie, or concert) ▪ We'll return after a brief *intermission*. — called also (*Brit*) *interval*

in•ter•mit•tent /ˌɪntɚˈmɪtn̩t/ *adj* : starting, stopping, and starting again : not constant or steady ▪ The patient was having *intermittent* pains in his side. ▪ The forecast is for *intermittent* rain. ▪ There are reports of *intermittent* [=*sporadic*] fighting along the border.
– **in•ter•mit•tent•ly** *adv* ▪ It has been raining *intermittently* for the past several days.

in•ter•mix /ˌɪntɚˈmɪks/ *verb* **-mix•es**; **-mixed**; **-mix•ing** : to mix together [+ *obj*] When they talk, they often *intermix* English and/with Spanish. [*no obj*] groups of people that don't *intermix* (with one another)

¹in•tern /ˈɪnˌtɚn/ *noun, pl* **-terns** [*count*] *US*
1 : a student or recent graduate who works for a period of time at a job in order to get experience ▪ a teaching *intern*
2 : a person who works in a hospital in order to complete training as a doctor ▪ After medical school, he worked as an *intern* at the university hospital.

²intern *verb* **-terns**; **-terned**; **-tern•ing** [*no obj*] *US* : to work as an intern ▪ After medical school, he *interned* at the university hospital. — compare ³INTERN

³in•tern /ˈɪnˌtɚn, ɪnˈtɚn/ *verb* **-terns**; **-terned**; **-tern•ing** [+ *obj*] : to put (someone who has not been accused of a crime) in prison for political reasons especially during a war ▪ They are protesting the government's decision to *intern* citizens without evidence of wrongdoing. — compare ²INTERN

in•ter•nal /ɪnˈtɚnl/ *adj*
1 : existing or located on the inside of something ▪ the *internal* structure of the planet ▪ The theory has some *internal* inconsistencies. [=some parts of the theory are not consistent with other parts] — opposite EXTERNAL
2 : coming from inside ▪ *internal* pressures — opposite EXTERNAL
3 a : existing or occurring within your body ▪ a patient who is experiencing *internal* bleeding ▪ *internal* organs **b** : existing or occurring within your mind ▪ *internal* doubts ▪ *internal* thoughts — opposite EXTERNAL
4 a : existing or occurring within a country ▪ *internal* affairs ▪ the office of *internal* revenue — opposite EXTERNAL **b** : existing or occurring within an organization (such as a company or business) ▪ The new policy was spelled out in an *internal* memo
– **in•ter•nal•ly** *adv* ▪ an *internally* inconsistent theory ▪ a patient who is bleeding *internally* ▪ This medicine is to be taken *internally*. [=*orally*]

internal clock *noun, pl* **~ clocks** [*count*]
1 : BODY CLOCK
2 : a clock or timing device that is inside a computer

internal combustion engine *noun, pl* **~ -gines** [*count*] : a type of engine that is used for most vehicles : an engine in which the fuel is burned within engine cylinders

in•ter•nal•ize *also Brit* **in•ter•nal•ise** /ɪnˈtɚnəˌlaɪz/ *verb* **-iz•es**; **-ized**; **-iz•ing** [+ *obj*] : to make (something, such as an idea or an attitude) an important part of the kind of person you are ▪ They have *internalized* their parents' values.
– **in•ter•nal•i•za•tion** *also Brit* **in•ter•nal•i•sa•tion** /ɪnˌtɚnələˈzeɪʃən, *Brit* ɪnˌtɚ:nəˌlaɪˈzeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ *internalization* of moral standards

internal medicine *noun* [*noncount*] *US* : the work of a doctor who treats diseases that do not require surgery ▪ a doctor who specializes in *internal medicine*

Internal Revenue Service *noun*
the Internal Revenue Service : the department of the U.S. federal government that is responsible for collecting taxes — abbr. *IRS*; compare INLAND REVENUE

in•ter•na•tion•al /ˌɪntɚˈnæʃənl̩/ *adj*
1 : involving two or more countries : occurring between countries ▪ *international* trade ▪ studying *international* relations ▪ an *international* agreement ▪ *international* flights ▪ the *international* community ▪ *international* law
2 : made up of people or groups from different countries ▪ an *international* association of chemists
3 : active or known in many countries ▪ an *international* star ▪ She has achieved *international* fame/recognition.
– **in•ter•na•tion•al•ly** *adv* ▪ The process is now recognized *internationally*. ▪ an *internationally* televised event

international date line *noun*
the international date line : an imaginary line that runs through the Pacific Ocean from the North Pole to the South Pole and that marks the place where each day officially begins ▪ crossing *the international date line* — called also *date line*

in•ter•na•tion•al•ism /ˌɪntɚˈnæʃənəˌlɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the belief that it is good for different countries to work together ▪ a proponent of economic *internationalism*
– **in•ter•na•tion•al•ist** /ˌɪntɚˈnæʃənəlɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] – **internationalist** *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ adopting *internationalist* positions

in•ter•na•tion•al•ize *also Brit* **in•ter•na•tion•al•ise** /ˌɪntɚˈnæʃənəˌlaɪz/ *verb* **-iz•es**; **-ized**; **-iz•ing** : to place (something) under international control : to make (something) involve or affect two or more countries [+ *obj*] *internationalize* a business ▪ an *internationalized* economy [*no obj*] a business that has begun to *internationalize*
– **in•ter•na•tion•al•i•za•tion** *also Brit* **in•ter•na•tion•al•i•sa•tion** /ˌɪntɚˌnæʃənələˈzeɪʃən, *Brit* ˌɪntəˌnæʃənəˌlaɪˈzeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

international relations *noun* [*noncount*] : an area of study or knowledge concerned with relations between different countries

in•ter•ne•cine /ˌɪntɚˈnɛˌsi:n, *Brit* ˌɪntəˈni:ˌsaɪn/ *adj, always used before a noun, formal* : occurring between members of the same country, group, or organization ▪ a brutal *internecine* war/battle ▪ *internecine* feuds ▪ a political party that has suffered because of bitter *internecine* rivalries

In•ter•net /ˈɪntɚˌnɛt/ *noun*
the Internet : a system that connects computers throughout the world ▪ She spent hours surfing *the Internet*. — compare INTRANET, WORLD WIDE WEB
– **Internet** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ an *Internet* connection ▪ an *Internet* site

Internet service provider *noun, pl* **~ -ers** [*count*] : ISP

in•ter•nist /ˈɪnˌtɚnɪst/ *noun, pl* **-nists** [*count*] *US, medical* : a doctor who specializes in diseases that do not require surgery : a doctor who specializes in internal medicine

in•tern•ment /ɪnˈtɚnmənt/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the act of putting someone in a prison for political reasons or during a war : the act of interning someone ▪ protesting the government's *internment* of citizens without evidence of wrongdoing : the state of being interned ▪ trying to escape *internment* — sometimes used before another noun ▪ *internment* camps

in•tern•ship /ˈɪnˌtɚnˌʃɪp/ *noun, pl* **-ships** [*count*]
1 : a position as an intern ▪ She got an *internship* at the city newspaper.
2 : the period of time when a person is an intern ▪ He will finish his *internship* in April.

in•ter•of•fice /ˌɪntɚˈɑ:fəs/ *adj, always used before a noun, chiefly US* : going or happening between people who are part of the same company or organization ▪ an *interoffice* memo ▪ *interoffice* mail

in•ter•per•son•al /ˌɪntɚˈpɚsənəl/ *adj, always used before a noun* [*more ~; most ~*] : relating to or involving relations between people : existing or happening between people ▪ *interpersonal* communication ▪ *interpersonal* skills/relationships

in•ter•plan•e•tary /ˌɪntəˈplænəˌteri/ *adj, always used before a noun, astronomy* : existing or occurring between planets ▪ *interplanetary* travel ▪ *interplanetary* space

in•ter•play /ˈɪntəˌpleɪ/ *noun* : the ways in which two or more things, groups, etc., affect each other when they happen or exist together [*noncount*] — often + *between* or *of* ▪ the *interplay between* the old and the new ▪ enjoys the *interplay of* three very different flavors [*singular*] — + *of* ▪ a complex *interplay of* light and color

In•ter•pol /ˈɪntəˌpoʊl, *Brit* ˈɪntəˌpɒl/ *noun* [*singular*] : an international police organization that works with the police of different countries to fight crime

in•ter•po•late /ɪnˈtɚpəˌleɪt/ *verb* **-lates**; **-lat•ed**; **-lat•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to put (something) between other things or parts ▪ He smoothly *interpolates* fragments from other songs into his own.; *especially* : to put (words) into a piece of writing or a conversation ▪ He *interpolated* a very critical comment in/into the discussion.
– **in•ter•po•la•tion** /ɪnˌtɚpəˈleɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count, noncount*]

in•ter•pose /ˌɪntəˈpoʊz/ *verb* **-pos•es**; **-posed**; **-pos•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal*
1 : to place (someone or something) *between* two or more things or people ▪ The new system has *interposed* a bureaucratic barrier *between* doctors and patients. ▪ He tried to *interpose* himself *between* the people who were fighting.
2 : to interrupt a conversation with (a comment) ▪ Please allow me to *interpose* a brief observation.

in•ter•pret /ɪnˈtɚprət/ *verb* **-prets**; **-pret•ed**; **-pret•ing**
1 [+ *obj*] : to explain the meaning of (something) ▪ *interpret* a dream ▪ We need someone to *interpret* these results for us. ▪ How should we *interpret* the law/rules/decision?
2 [+ *obj*] : to understand (something) in a specified way ▪ I *interpreted* his behavior to mean that he disliked me. — often + *as* ▪ I *interpreted* his behavior *as* indicating that he disliked me. ▪ Her comment was meant to be *interpreted as* sarcasm.
3 [+ *obj*] : to perform (something, such as a song or a role) in a way that shows your own thoughts and feelings about it ▪ Every actor *interprets* the role of Hamlet a little differently.
4 [*no obj*] : to translate the words that someone is speaking into a different language : to repeat what someone says in a different language than the language originally used ▪ I'll need someone to *interpret* for me when I travel to China. — compare TRANSLATE
– **in•ter•pret•able** /ɪnˈtɚprətəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ These results are not easily *interpretable*.

in•ter•pre•ta•tion /ɪnˌtɚprəˈteɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**
1 : the act or result of explaining or interpreting something : the way something is explained or understood [*count*] We did not agree with his *interpretation* [=*explanation*] of the results. ▪ There were many *interpretations* of [=many ways to interpret] his behavior. ▪ a literal/loose *interpretation* of the law [*noncount*] The truth will only be found by careful *interpretation* of the evidence. ▪ His remarks need further *interpretation*. ✧ If something is ***open/subject to interpretation*** it can be understood in different ways ▪ Every art form is *subject to interpretation*.
2 [*count*] : a particular way of performing something ▪ an actor's *interpretation* of the role of Hamlet
– **in•ter•pre•tive** /ɪnˈtɚprətɪv/ *or* **in•ter•pre•ta•tive** /ɪnˈtɚprəˌteɪtɪv/ *adj* ▪ a series of *interpretive* essays

in•ter•pret•er /ɪnˈtɚprətɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a person who translates the words that someone is speaking into a different language ▪ He has now learned English well enough that he can conduct interviews without an *interpreter*. ▪ He gave his statement ***through an interpreter***. [=an interpreter translated his statement]

in•ter•ra•cial /ˌɪntəˈreɪʃəl/ *adj* : involving people of different races ▪ an *interracial* marriage

in•ter•re•late /ˌɪntəɹɪˈleɪt/ *verb* **-lates**; **-lat•ed**; **-lat•ing**
1 [*no obj*] : to have a close or shared relationship ▪ I like the way the characters *interrelate* in the novel. ▪ Linguists have found that language *interrelates* closely with culture.
2 [+ *obj*] : to make or show a relationship between (things or people) ▪ Linguists have tried to *interrelate* language with/and culture.
– **interrelated** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ a number of *interrelated* topics ▪ Linguists have found that language and culture are closely *interrelated*. – **in•ter•re•lat•ed•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] – **in•ter•re•la•tion** /ˌɪntəɹɪˈleɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count, noncount*] ▪ understanding the *interrelations* of/between/among different animal species – **in•ter•re•la•tion•ship** /ˌɪntəɹɪˈleɪʃənˌʃɪp/ *noun, pl* **-ships** [*count, noncount*] ▪ the *interrelationships* among all forms of life

in•ter•ro•gate /ɪnˈterəˌgeɪt/ *verb* **-gates**; **-gat•ed**; **-gat•ing** [+ *obj*] : to ask (someone) questions in a thorough and often forceful way ▪ *interrogate* a prisoner of war ▪ The suspect was *interrogated* (by the police) for several hours.
– **in•ter•ro•ga•tion** /ɪnˌterəˈgeɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count, noncount*] ▪ He conducted a skillful *interrogation* of the witness. – **in•ter•ro•ga•tor** /ɪnˈterəˌgeɪtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*] ▪ a skillful *interrogator*

[1]in•ter•rog•a•tive /ˌɪntəˈrɑːgətɪv/ *adj*
1 *grammar* **a** : having the form of a question rather than a statement or command ▪ "Did you go to school today?" is an *interrogative* sentence. **b** : used to ask a question ▪ an *interrogative* pronoun such as "who" — compare DECLARATIVE IMPERATIVE
2 *formal* : asking a question : having the form or force of a question ▪ She had an *interrogative* expression/look on her face. ▪ an *interrogative* tone of voice

[2]interrogative *noun, pl* **-tives** [*count*] *grammar* : a word (such as *who, what*, or *which*) that is used in asking a question
the interrogative : the form that a phrase or sentence has when it is asking a question ▪ "Is this sentence in *the interrogative*?" "Yes, it is."

in•ter•rupt /ˌɪntəˈrʌpt/ *verb* **-rupts**; **-rupt•ed**; **-rupt•ing**
1 : to ask questions or say things while another person is speaking : to do or say something that causes someone to stop speaking [+ *obj*] Please don't *interrupt* me (while I'm talking). [*no obj*] It's not polite to *interrupt*. ▪ Please don't *interrupt* (while I'm talking).
2 [+ *obj*] : to cause (something) to stop happening for a time ▪ His dinner was *interrupted* by a phone call. ▪ We *interrupt* this program to bring you a special announcement.
3 [+ *obj*] : to cause (something) to not be even or continuous : to change or stop the sameness or smoothness of (something) ▪ Every summer periods of cool weather occasionally *interrupt* the intense heat. — often used as *(be) interrupted* ▪ The intense heat *is* occasionally *interrupted* by periods of cool weather. ▪ a grassy plain *interrupted* by a lone tree
– **in•ter•rup•tion** /ˌɪntəˈrʌpʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*] ▪ The dynasty lasted several hundred years, with only a few *interruptions*. ▪ I wish it were possible to watch television without all the commercial *interruptions*. ▪ frequent/annoying *interruptions* [*noncount*] She spoke for an hour without *interruption*. ▪ There shouldn't be any *interruption* in/to your phone service.

in•ter•scho•las•tic /ˌɪntɚskəˈlæstɪk/ *adj, always used before a noun, US* : existing or done between schools ▪ *interscholastic* sports/athletics

in•ter•sect /ˌɪntəˈsɛkt/ *verb* **-sects**; **-sect•ed**; **-sect•ing**
1 a [+ *obj*] : to divide (something) by passing through or across it : CROSS ▪ A dry stream bed *intersects* the trail in several places. ▪ Line A *intersects* line B. = Line B is *intersected* by line A. = Line A and line B *intersect* each other **b** [*no obj*] : to meet and cross at one or more points ▪ Line A *intersects* with line B. ▪ *intersecting* lines/paths/streets ▪ The two roads *intersect* at the edge of town.
2 [*no obj*] : to share some common area ▪ the place where politics and business *intersect* [=*overlap*] = the place where politics *intersects* with business

in•ter•sec•tion /ˌɪntəˈsɛkʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**
1 [*count*] : the place or point where two or more things come together; *especially* : the place where two or more streets meet or cross each other ▪ The accident occurred at a busy *intersection*.
2 [*noncount*] : the act or process of crossing or intersecting ▪ two possible points of *intersection* ▪ the *intersection* of line A and/with line B

in•ter•sperse /ˌɪntəˈspɚs/ *verb* **-spers•es**; **-spersed**; **-spers•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to put (something) at different places among other things ▪ You should *intersperse* these pictures evenly throughout the book. ▪ Some seagulls were *interspersed* among the ducks.
2 : to put things at different places within (something) — + *with* ▪ *intersperse* a book *with* illustrations — usually used as *(be) interspersed* ▪ The book *was* nicely *interspersed with* illustrations. ▪ The forecast calls for scattered showers *interspersed with* sunny periods. [=scattered showers with sunny periods between the showers]

[1]in•ter•state /ˌɪntəˈsteɪt/ *adj, always used before a noun* : re-

lating to or connecting different states : existing or occurring between states especially in the U.S. ▪ an *interstate* highway ▪ *interstate* commerce/transportation

²in•ter•state /ˈɪntəˌsteɪt/ *noun, pl* **-states** [*count*] *US* : a major highway that connects two or more states : an interstate highway ▪ You'll get there quicker if you take the *interstate*. ▪ *Interstate* 90

in•ter•stel•lar /ˌɪntəˈstɛlə/ *adj, always used before a noun* : existing or occurring between stars ▪ *interstellar* space/gas/dust

in•ter•stice /ɪnˈtəstəs/ *noun, pl* **-stic•es** /ɪnˈtəstəˌsi:z/ [*count*] *formal* : a small space that lies between things : a small break or gap in something — usually plural ▪ the *interstices* [=*cracks*] of/between the bricks

in•ter•tid•al /ˌɪntəˈtaɪtl/ *adj, always used before a noun, technical* : of or relating to the area of the shore that is between the low point and the high point of the tide ▪ animals that live in the *intertidal* zone

in•ter•tri•bal /ˌɪntəˈtraɪbəl/ *adj, always used before a noun* : existing or occurring between tribes ▪ *intertribal* warfare/politics

in•ter•twine /ˌɪntəˈtwaɪn/ *verb* **-twines**; **-twined**; **-twin•ing**

1 : to twist (things) together [+ *obj*] — often used as *(be) intertwined* ▪ The branches *are intertwined* (with each other) and grow into a solid wall. ▪ Colored ribbons *were intertwined* in her hair. [*no obj*] The branches *intertwine* (with each other) to make a solid wall. ▪ *intertwining* branches

2 : to be or become very closely involved with each other [*no obj*] He's always telling stories in which the present and the past *intertwine*. [+ *obj*] His fate is *intertwined* with hers.

in•ter•val /ˈɪntəvəl/ *noun, pl* **-vals** [*count*]

1 : a period of time between events : PAUSE ▪ a three-month *interval* between jobs ▪ There might be long *intervals* during/in which nothing happens. ▪ The sun shone for brief *intervals* throughout the day.

2 *music* : the difference in pitch between two notes

3 *Brit* : INTERMISSION ▪ There will be a 20-minute *interval* between acts one and two.

at intervals **1** : with an amount of space in between ▪ There are signs *at* regular *intervals* along the outside wall. ▪ The chairs were placed *at intervals* of two feet. **2** : with an amount of time in between ▪ It recurs *at* (regular) *intervals* of every six months.

in•ter•vene /ˌɪntəˈvi:n/ *verb* **-venes**; **-vened**; **-ven•ing** [*no obj*]

1 : to come or occur between two times or events ▪ Twenty years *intervened* between their first and last meetings.

2 : to become involved in something (such as a conflict) in order to have an influence on what happens ▪ The prisoner asked me to *intervene* with the authorities on his behalf. ▪ The military had to *intervene* to restore order. — often + *in* ▪ We need the courts to *intervene in* this dispute.

3 : to happen as an unrelated event that causes a delay or problem ▪ We will leave on time unless some crisis *intervenes*.

– **intervening** *adj, always used before another noun* ▪ They have spent the *intervening* years trying to figure out what happened. – **in•ter•ven•tion** /ˌɪntəˈvɛnʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*noncount*] praying for divine *intervention* ▪ This situation called for military *intervention*. ▪ The program is able to run without *intervention* by the user. ▪ medical *intervention* [=*treatment*] [*count*] military *interventions*

in•ter•ven•tion•ism /ˌɪntəˈvɛnʃəˌnɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a government policy or practice of doing things to directly influence the country's economy or the political affairs of another country ▪ a proponent of aggressive economic *interventionism*

– **in•ter•ven•tion•ist** /ˌɪntəˈvɛnʃənɪst/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ *interventionist* policies/government – **interventionist** *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] ▪ a die-hard *interventionist*

in•ter•ver•te•bral disc /ˌɪntəˈvətəbrəl-/ *noun, pl* ~ **discs** [*count*] : DISC 4

¹in•ter•view /ˈɪntəˌvju:/ *noun, pl* **-views** [*count*]

1 : a meeting at which people talk to each other in order to ask questions and get information: such as **a** : a formal meeting with someone who is being considered for a job or other position ▪ The company is holding *interviews* for several new jobs. ✧ If you ***have an interview***, you have an appointment to speak to someone who could hire you. ▪ I *have a* job *interview* tomorrow morning. **b** : a meeting between a reporter and another person in order to get information for a news story ▪ a journalist conducting/doing *interviews* with political leaders ▪ an actor who has stopped ***giving/granting/doing interviews*** [=an actor who no longer talks to reporters]; *also* : a written or taped record of such a meeting ▪ The *interview* will be shown on tonight's news. ▪ This library has a large collection of his *interviews*. ▪ a published *interview*

2 *US, informal* : a person who is interviewed : INTERVIEWEE ▪ He is a very entertaining *interview*. ▪ She's always been known as one of Hollywood's best/toughest *interviews*.

²interview *verb* **-views**; **-viewed**; **-view•ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to question or talk with (someone) in order to get information or learn about that person ▪ The company will start *interviewing* candidates for the job tomorrow. ▪ Few of the people *interviewed* for the job seemed at all suitable. ▪ She's been *interviewed* on television many times. ▪ The police are *interviewing* [=*interrogating*] several witnesses.

2 [*no obj*] *US* : to participate in an interview for a position (such as a job) ▪ He has *interviewed* with many companies, but he still hasn't found a job. — often + *for* ▪ Several people are now *interviewing for* the position.

– **in•ter•view•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ an *interviewer* who is known for asking tough questions

in•ter•view•ee /ˌɪntəˌvju:ˈi:/ *noun, pl* **-ees** [*count*] : a person who is interviewed ▪ He asked the *interviewee* some very personal questions.

in•ter•war /ˌɪntəˈwoə/ *adj, always used before a noun* : occurring between wars; *especially* : occurring between World War I and World War II ▪ during the *interwar* years

in•ter•weave /ˌɪntəˈwi:v/ *verb* **-weaves**; **-wove** /ˌɪntəˈwoʊv/; **-woven** /ˌɪntəˈwoʊvən/; **-weav•ing** [+ *obj*] : to twist or weave (threads, fibers, etc.) together ▪ The long strands of ribbon are *interwoven* (together). ▪ a house built from poles *interwoven* with vines ▪ a mat of *interwoven* fibers — often used figuratively ▪ The two themes are *interwoven* throughout the poem. ▪ He *interweaves* advice and amusing stories to create an entertaining book. ▪ His life is closely *interwoven* with hers.

in•tes•tate /ɪnˈtɛˌsteɪt/ *adj, law* : not having made a will ▪ He ***died intestate***. [=he did not have a will when he died]

in•tes•tine /ɪnˈtɛstən/ *noun, pl* **-tines** [*count*] : a long tube in the body that helps digest food after it leaves the stomach — see also LARGE INTESTINE, SMALL INTESTINE

– **in•tes•ti•nal** /ɪnˈtɛstənl/ *adj* ▪ the *intestinal* tract/wall ▪ *intestinal* tissue ▪ *intestinal* gas ▪ an *intestinal* disease — see also *intestinal fortitude* at FORTITUDE

in•ti•ma•cy /ˈɪntəməsi/ *noun, pl* **-cies**

1 : an intimate quality or state: such as **a** : emotional warmth and closeness [*noncount*] the *intimacy* of old friends ▪ the *intimacy* of their relationship ▪ a fear of *intimacy* [*singular*] He felt he achieved a certain *intimacy* with her. **b** [*noncount*] : a quality that suggests informal warmth or closeness ▪ The band liked the *intimacy* of the nightclub.

2 [*noncount*] : sexual relations ▪ sexual/physical *intimacy*

3 [*count*] : something that is very personal and private — usually plural ▪ They shared *intimacies* about their private lives.

¹in•ti•mate /ˈɪntəmət/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : having a very close relationship : very warm and friendly ▪ an *intimate* acquaintance ▪ They remained *intimate* friends throughout their lives. ▪ We have an *intimate* friendship with our neighbors. = We are ***on intimate terms*** with our neighbors. [=we are very close friends with our neighbors]

2 : very personal or private ▪ *intimate* thoughts/feelings ▪ *intimate* secrets ▪ sharing an *intimate* moment ▪ an *intimate* conversation ▪ (*chiefly US*) a store that sells *intimate* apparel [=women's underwear and clothes for sleeping]

3 : involving sex or sexual relations ▪ They are in an *intimate* and committed relationship. ▪ He denies that they were ever *intimate*. = He denies that he was ever ***intimate with*** her. [=that he ever had sexual relations with her]

4 *of a place* : private and pleasant in a way that allows people to feel relaxed and comfortable ▪ The room is small and *intimate*. ▪ an *intimate* nightclub

5 : very closely related or connected : very close ▪ There is an *intimate* connection/relationship between diet and health.

6 : very complete ▪ She has an *intimate* [=very detailed] knowledge of the company. ▪ The story is now known in *intimate* detail. ▪ an *intimate* understanding of the process

– **in•ti•mate•ly** *adv* ▪ She is *intimately* associated/involved with the production. ▪ The problem is *intimately* connected with/to our culture. ▪ *intimately* familiar with the experience ▪ Diet and health are *intimately* [=very closely] relat-

ed. ▪ Their careers are *intimately* linked. ▪ She knows the city *intimately*. [=very well]

²in•ti•mate /ˈɪntəmət/ *noun, pl* **-mates** [*count*] *somewhat formal* : a very close and trusted friend : an intimate friend ▪ His coworkers knew him as "Robert," but his *intimates* called him "Robbie."

³in•ti•mate /ˈɪntəˌmeɪt/ *verb* **-mates**; **-mat•ed**; **-mat•ing** [+ *obj*] : to say or suggest (something) in an indirect way ▪ He *intimated* (to us) that we should plan to arrive early.
– **in•ti•ma•tion** /ˌɪntəˈmeɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*] the earliest *intimations* [=*hints*] of spring ▪ Even at the beginning, there were *intimations* [=*suggestions*] that the project was in trouble. [*noncount*] He hasn't given any *intimation* of his plans.

in•tim•i•date /ɪnˈtɪməˌdeɪt/ *verb* **-dates**; **-dat•ed**; **-dat•ing** [+ *obj*] : to make (someone) afraid ▪ He tries to *intimidate* his opponents. ▪ You shouldn't allow his reputation to *intimidate* you. — often used as *(be) intimidated* ▪ Many people *are intimidated* by new technology. ▪ Some people *are* easily *intimidated*. ▪ She *was intimidated* by the size of the campus.
– **intimidated** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ I feel less *intimidated* now than I did when I started the job. – **intimidating** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ He is one of the most *intimidating* men I have ever met. ▪ Speaking in front of a large audience can be very *intimidating*. – **in•tim•i•dat•ing•ly** /ɪnˈtɪməˌdeɪtɪŋli/ *adv* ▪ The system is *intimidatingly* complex. – **in•tim•i•da•tion** /ɪnˌtɪməˈdeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ *intimidation* of jurors/witnesses ▪ enforcing agreement by *intimidation* or violence – **in•tim•i•da•tor** /ɪnˈtɪməˌdeɪtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*]

intl. *or* **intnl.** *abbr* international

in•to /ˈɪntu, ˈɪntə/ *prep*
1 : to or toward the inside of (something) ▪ She came *into* the room/house. ▪ a medicine injected *into* the bloodstream ▪ Please put the bowl *into* the sink/cupboard. ▪ They were heading *into* town. ▪ He jumped *into* the pool.
2 : in the direction of (something) ▪ You should never look directly *into* [=*toward*] the sun. ▪ She was just staring *into* space. ▪ peering/looking *into* the past/future
3 — used to describe hitting or touching something or someone ▪ He ran *into* [=*against*] a wall. ▪ She bumped *into* me.
4 : to the state, condition, or form of (something) ▪ She was shocked *into* silence. ▪ come *into* being/existence ▪ as day turns *into* night ▪ I got *into* trouble again. ▪ her slow descent *into* madness ▪ converting sunlight *into* electricity ▪ He translated the poem from Latin *into* English. ▪ change dollars *into* euros ▪ breaking up *into* smaller pieces
5 a — used to say that something or someone has become a part of something ▪ They entered *into* an alliance. ▪ He was born *into* a once-proud family. **b** — used to say that someone has become involved in something (such as a profession) ▪ She wants to get *into* politics. ▪ He decided to go *into* farming. [=he decided to be a farmer] **c** — used to say that someone has been forced or persuaded to do something ▪ He was pressured *into* doing this by his boss. ▪ I was talked *into* joining the class.
6 *informal* — used to say that someone is interested in and excited about (something) ▪ He was never *into* sports. ▪ I'm really *into* her music. ▪ I usually enjoy her books, but I just couldn't get *into* this one.
7 — used to say how long something lasts ▪ The party continued well/far/long/late *into* the night. ▪ This snow should last well *into* the spring. ▪ The heat wave will continue *into* next week.
8 : relating to or concerning (something) ▪ an investigation *into* the causes of the accident
9 — used to describe dividing one number by another number ▪ Six goes *into* 18 three times. ▪ Dividing 3 *into* 6 gives 2.
be into (someone) for *US, informal* : to owe someone (an amount of money) ▪ I'*m into him for* a thousand dollars.

in•tol•er•a•ble /ɪnˈtɑːlərəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : too bad, harsh, or severe to be accepted or tolerated : not tolerable ▪ The situation was totally *intolerable* [=*unacceptable*] to us. ▪ *intolerable* [=*unbearable*] pain/behavior ▪ She divorced him on the grounds of *intolerable* cruelty.
– **in•tol•er•a•bly** /ɪnˈtɑːlərəbli/ *adv* ▪ *intolerably* cruel/dull/boring.

in•tol•er•ant /ɪnˈtɑːlərənt/ *adj*
1 [*more* ~; *most* ~] **a** : not willing to allow or accept something — often + *of* ▪ He is *intolerant of* weakness/failure. ▪ They were *intolerant* of his lifestyle. **b** *disapproving* : not willing to allow some people to have equality, freedom, or other social rights ▪ an *intolerant* [=*bigoted*] racist
2 *medicine* : unable to take a certain substance into the body without becoming sick ▪ people who are lactose *intolerant* [=unable to eat foods that contain lactose] — often + *of* ▪ patients who are *intolerant of* certain drugs
– **in•tol•er•ance** /ɪnˈtɑːlərəns/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ *intolerance* towards/to outsiders ▪ fighting the forces of racism and *intolerance* ▪ a campaign against religious *intolerance* ▪ lactose *intolerance* – **in•tol•er•ant•ly** *adv*

in•to•na•tion /ˌɪntoʊˈneɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** : the rise and fall in the sound of your voice when you speak [*noncount*] identical sentences, differing only in *intonation* [*count*] sentences with different *intonations*

in•tone /ɪnˈtoʊn/ *verb* **-tones**; **-toned**; **-ton•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to speak (a prayer, poem, etc.) in a way that sounds like music or chanting ▪ *intone* a prayer
2 : to say (something) in a slow and even voice ▪ "Coming soon to a theater near you," the announcer *intoned*.

in to•to /ɪnˈtoʊˌtoʊ/ *adv, formal* : as a whole : totally or completely ▪ The judge accepted/rejected the testimony *in toto*.

in•tox•i•cant /ɪnˈtɑːksɪkənt/ *noun, pl* **-cants** [*count*] *formal* : something (such as an acoholic drink) that causes people to become excited or confused and less able to control what they say or do : an intoxicating substance ▪ The use of *intoxicants* and stimulants is prohibited. ▪ He was driving under the influence of *intoxicants*.

in•tox•i•cate /ɪnˈtɑːksɪˌkeɪt/ *verb* **-cates**; **-cat•ed**; **-cat•ing** [+ *obj*] *somewhat formal*
1 *of alcohol, a drug, etc.* : to make (someone) unable to think and behave normally ▪ The little bit of beer I drank was not enough to *intoxicate* me.
2 : to excite or please (someone) in a way that suggests the effect of alcohol or a drug — usually used as *(be) intoxicated* ▪ He *was intoxicated* by the power of his position in the government. ▪ He *was intoxicated* by her beauty.
– **in•tox•i•ca•tion** /ɪnˌtɑːksəˈkeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ She drank to the point of *intoxication*. ▪ He was arrested for public *intoxication*. [=for being drunk in public] ▪ the *intoxication* of power

in•tox•i•cat•ed /ɪnˈtɑːksɪˌkeɪtəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *somewhat formal* : affected by alcohol or drugs; *especially* : DRUNK ▪ He appeared to be very *intoxicated*. ▪ Driving while *intoxicated* is illegal.

intoxicating *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *somewhat formal*
1 : causing intoxication; *especially* : able to make someone drunk ▪ *intoxicating* beverages ▪ the *intoxicating* effects of alcohol
2 : causing someone to have strong feelings of excitement or pleasure ▪ the *intoxicating* power of his position in the government ▪ her *intoxicating* beauty

in•tra- /ˈɪntrə/ *prefix*
1 : within something ▪ *intra*mural — opposite EXTRA-
2 : in or into something ▪ *intra*venous

in•trac•ta•ble /ɪnˈtræktəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal*
1 : not easily managed, controlled, or solved ▪ an *intractable* problem ▪ an *intractable* mystery/question
2 : not easily relieved or cured ▪ a patient experiencing *intractable* pain ▪ an *intractable* infection/disease
– **in•trac•ta•bil•i•ty** /ɪnˌtræktəˈbɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *intractability* of the problem/disease – **in•trac•ta•bly** /ɪnˈtræktəbli/ *adv* ▪ an *intractably* complicated problem

in•tra•mu•ral /ˌɪntrəˈmjɚrəl/ *adj, US* : existing or occurring within a particular group or organization (such as a school) ▪ *intramural* sports [=sports in which the students of one school compete against each other instead of competing against other schools]

in•tra•net /ˈɪntrəˌnɛt/ *noun, pl* **-nets** [*count*] *computers* : a network that works like the Internet but can only be used by certain people (such as the employees of a company) ▪ a corporate *intranet*

in•tran•si•gent /ɪnˈtrænsədʒənt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : completely unwilling to change : very stubborn ▪ *intransigent* enemies/opponents ▪ He has remained *intransigent* in his opposition to the proposal.
– **in•tran•si•gence** /ɪnˈtrænsədʒəns/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ fighting bureaucratic *intransigence* – **in•tran•si•gent•ly** *adv*

in•tran•si•tive /ɪnˈtrænsətɪv/ *adj, grammar, of a verb* : not taking or having a direct object ▪ an *intransitive* verb ▪ In "I ran" and "The bird flies," "ran" and "flies" are *intransitive*. — compare TRANSITIVE

– **in·tran·si·tive·ly** *adv* ▪ Some verbs can be used both *intransitively* and transitively.

in·tra·state /ˌɪntrəˈsteɪt/ *adj, always used before a noun* : occurring within a state ▪ *intrastate* commerce/trucking ▪ *intrastate* football rivals

in·tra·uter·ine /ˌɪntrəˈjuːtərən, ˌɪntrəˈjuːtəˌraɪn/ *adj, always used before a noun, medical* : used or occurring within the uterus ▪ an *intrauterine* growth

intrauterine device *noun, pl* ~ **-vices** [*count*] *medical* : a device that is inserted in the uterus and left there to prevent pregnancy — called also *IUD*

in·tra·ve·nous /ˌɪntrəˈviːnəs/ *adj, always used before a noun* : through, in, or into a vein : entering the body through a vein ▪ *intravenous* feedings/drugs ▪ an *intravenous* needle

– **in·tra·ve·nous·ly** *adv* ▪ She is being given the medication *intravenously*.

in tray *noun, pl* ~ **trays** [*count*] : IN-BOX

in·trep·id /ɪnˈtrɛpəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *literary* + *often humorous* : feeling no fear : very bold or brave ▪ an *intrepid* explorer

in·tri·ca·cy /ˈɪntrəkəsi/ *noun, pl* **-cies**

1 [*noncount*] : the quality or state of being complex or having many parts : the quality or state of being intricate ▪ She admired the composition for its beauty and *intricacy*. ▪ the *intricacy* [=*complexity*] of the design/plan

2 [*count*] : something that is complex or detailed : something intricate ▪ I had trouble following all the *intricacies* in the plot. ▪ the *intricacies* of English grammar

in·tri·cate /ˈɪntrəkət/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having many parts ▪ *intricate* machinery ▪ an *intricate* [=*complex*] design/pattern ▪ The movie has an *intricate* plot.

– **in·tri·cate·ly** *adv* ▪ *intricately* woven fabric ▪ an *intricately* carved mantel

in·trigue /ɪnˈtriːg/ *verb* **-trigues**; **-trigued**; **-trigu·ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to make (someone) want to know more about something : to cause (someone) to become interested ▪ Your idea *intrigues* me. — often used as *(be) intrigued* ▪ She *was intrigued* with/by what he had to say.

2 [*no obj*] *formal* : to make secret plans — usually + *against* ▪ They were arrested for *intriguing against* the government.

in·trigue /ˈɪnˌtriːg/ *noun, pl* **-trigues**

1 [*noncount*] : the activity of making secret plans ▪ a novel of *intrigue* and romance ▪ an administration characterized by *intrigue* and corruption

2 [*count*] : a secret plan ▪ political *intrigues*

in·trigu·ing /ɪnˈtriːgɪŋ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : extremely interesting : FASCINATING ▪ an *intriguing* idea/person/question ▪ The offer is very *intriguing*.

– **in·trigu·ing·ly** *adv*

in·trin·sic /ɪnˈtrɪnzɪk/ *adj* : belonging to the essential nature of a thing : occurring as a natural part of something ▪ the *intrinsic* value of a gem ▪ the *intrinsic* brightness of a star ▪ *intrinsic* beauty — often + *to* ▪ Creativity is *intrinsic to* human nature. — opposite EXTRINSIC

– **in·trin·si·cal·ly** /ɪnˈtrɪnzɪkli/ *adv* ▪ an *intrinsically* difficult language ▪ *intrinsically* evil/valuable

in·tro /ˈɪnˌtroʊ/ *noun, pl* **-tros** [*count*] *informal* : a short introduction to something (such as a performance or a musical work) ▪ a brief *intro*

in·tro·duce /ˌɪntrəˈduːs, *Brit* ˌɪntrəˈdjuːs/ *verb* **-duc·es**; **-duced**; **-duc·ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to make (someone) known to someone else by name ▪ *introduce* two strangers ▪ He *introduced* his guest. ▪ Let me *introduce* myself: my name is John Smith. — often + *to* ▪ He *introduced* himself *to* the class. ▪ She *introduced* her mother *to* her friends.

2 a : to cause (something) to begin to be used for the first time ▪ They have been slow to *introduce* changes in procedure. **b** : to make (something) available for sale for the first time ▪ The designer is *introducing* a new line of clothes. **c** : to present (something) for discussion or consideration ▪ He *introduced* several issues during the meeting. ▪ New evidence was *introduced* at the trial. ▪ *introduce* a bill to Congress

3 : to bring (something, such as a type of plant or animal) to a place for the first time — often + *to* ▪ an Asian plant that has been *introduced to* America

4 : to speak briefly to an audience about (someone who is about to speak, perform, etc., or something that is about to begin) ▪ She *introduced* the speaker. ▪ He *introduced* the show's second act.

5 : to mention or refer to (something) for the first time ▪ The main topics are *introduced* in the first chapter.

6 : to cause (someone) to learn about or try (something) for the first time — + *to* ▪ The program *introduces* children *to* different sports. ▪ I was *introduced to* painting in college. ▪ The class *introduces* students *to* computer programming. ▪ She helped to *introduce* Americans *to* European fashions. = She helped to *introduce* European fashions *to* America.

7 : to put or insert (something) into something else ▪ *introduce* a needle into a vein ▪ The new carpet *introduces* some color into [=adds some color to] the living room. ▪ The rivalry *introduced* more drama to/into the competition.

in·tro·duc·tion /ˌɪntrəˈdʌkʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**

1 [*count*] : the act of making a person known to others by name — usually plural ▪ Once we finished the *introductions* [=once everyone was introduced], the meeting began. ▪ I'll ***make the introductions***. [=I'll introduce everyone]

2 [*noncount*] : the act of introducing something: such as **a** : the act of bringing something into practice or use for the first time ▪ the *introduction* of telephone service to the area **b** : the act of making a product available for sale for the first time ▪ Since its *introduction* last year, over a million copies of the software have been sold. **c** : the act of presenting something for discussion or consideration ▪ the *introduction* of evidence at the trial ▪ the *introduction* of a new topic for conversation ▪ the *introduction* of the bill to Congress ▪ She told the audience, ***by way of introduction***, that the research was completed a year ago. **d** : the act of bringing something (such as a plant or animal) to a place for the first time ▪ the *introduction* of an Asian plant species to America

3 [*count*] : a statement made to an audience about someone who is about to speak, perform, etc., or something that is about to begin ▪ After a brief *introduction*, the performer took the stage. ✧ A person who ***needs no introduction*** is well-known to the audience. ▪ Our speaker this evening *needs no introduction*.

4 [*count*] **a** : the beginning part of a book, essay, speech, etc., that explains what will follow in the main part ▪ Did you read the *introduction*? ▪ His *introduction* outlined the main points of the speech. **b** : the beginning part of a piece of music

5 [*count*] : something (such as a book or a course of study) that provides basic information about a subject — + *to* ▪ The book/course is an *introduction to* computer programming.

6 [*singular*] : a person's first experience with something — + *to* ▪ That concert was my *introduction to* her music. [=it was the first time I had heard her music]

7 [*count*] : something that is added or introduced to something else ▪ The plant is a recent *introduction* from Asia.

in·tro·duc·to·ry /ˌɪntrəˈdʌktəri/ *adj*

1 : providing information about someone who is about to speak, perform, etc., or something that is about to begin ▪ I'd like to make a few *introductory* remarks before we start the program. ▪ the book's *introductory* chapter

2 : providing basic information about a subject ▪ an *introductory* text ▪ a class in *introductory* physics

3 : intended to attract customers when a new product, service, etc., is introduced ▪ a special *introductory* offer/price

in·tro·spec·tion /ˌɪntrəˈspɛkʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the process of examining your own thoughts or feelings ▪ a moment of quiet *introspection*

– **in·tro·spec·tive** /ˌɪntrəˈspɛktɪv/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ As a student, he was very quiet and *introspective*.

in·tro·vert /ˈɪntrəˌvət/ *noun, pl* **-verts** [*count*] : a shy person : a quiet person who does not find it easy to talk to other people — opposite EXTROVERT

– **in·tro·vert·ed** /ˈɪntrəˌvətəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ an *introverted* person/personality

in·trude /ɪnˈtruːd/ *verb* **-trudes**; **-trud·ed**; **-trud·ing** [*no obj*]

1 : to come or go into a place where you are not wanted or welcome ▪ Excuse me, sir. I don't mean to *intrude*, but you have a phone call. ▪ Would I be *intruding* if I came along with you? ▪ The plane *intruded* into their airspace.

2 : to become involved with something private in an annoying way ▪ Reporters constantly *intruded* into the couple's private life. ▪ He didn't want to *intrude* upon their conversation.

– **in·tru·sion** /ɪnˈtruːʒən/ *noun, pl* **-sions** [*count*] The phone call was an unwelcome *intrusion*. ▪ Please excuse the *intrusion*. We'll be finished shortly. ▪ They have grown tired of all the *intrusions* into their private lives. [*noncount*] These laws are meant to protect citizens from improper government *intrusion*. ▪ The animals are sensitive to hu-

man *intrusion* into their habitat.

in•trud•er /ɪn'tru:dɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]
1 : a person who is not welcome or wanted in a place ▪ The other children regarded him as an *intruder*.
2 : a person who enters a place illegally ▪ The police arrested the *intruder*.

in•tru•sive /ɪn'tru:sɪv/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : annoying someone by interfering with their privacy : intruding where you are not wanted or welcome ▪ a loud and *intrusive* person ▪ She tried to be helpful without being *intrusive*. ▪ *Intrusive* reporters disturbed their privacy. ▪ *intrusive* questions
– **in•tru•sive•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

in•tu•it /ɪn'tu:wət, *Brit* ɪn'tju:ət/ *verb* **-its**; **-it•ed**; **-it•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to know or understand (something) because of what you feel or sense rather than because of evidence : to know or understand (something) through intuition ▪ He was able to *intuit* the answer immediately. ▪ She *intuited* a connection between the two crimes.

in•tu•i•tion /ˌɪntu'ɪʃən, *Brit* ˌɪntju'ɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**
1 [*noncount*] : a natural ability or power that makes it possible to know something without any proof or evidence : a feeling that guides a person to act a certain way without fully understanding why ▪ *Intuition* was telling her that something was very wrong. ▪ "How did you know I would drop by?" "Oh, I don't know. It must have been *intuition*." ▪ I trusted my *intuition* [=*instincts*] and ended the relationship.
2 [*count*] : something that is known or understood without proof or evidence ▪ I had an *intuition* [=(more commonly) *feeling, hunch*] that you would drop by.

in•tu•i•tive /ɪn'tu:wətɪv, *Brit* ɪn'tju:ətɪv/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]
1 : having the ability to know or understand things without any proof or evidence : having or characterized by intuition ▪ She has an *intuitive* mind ▪ an *intuitive* person
2 : based on or agreeing with what is known or understood without any proof or evidence : known or understood by intuition ▪ She has an *intuitive* [=*instinctive*] understanding of the business. ▪ a doctor with an *intuitive* awareness of his patients' concerns
3 a : agreeing with what seems naturally right ▪ The argument makes *intuitive* sense. **b** : easily and quickly learned or understood ▪ The software has an *intuitive* interface.
– **in•tu•i•tive•ly** *adv* ▪ a chef who works *intuitively*, rather than from a recipe ▪ The solution is *intuitively* obvious.

In•u•it *also* **In•nu•it** /'ɪnjuwət, 'ɪnuwət/ *noun, pl* **Inuit** *or* **In•u•its** *also* **Innuit** *or* **In•nu•its**
1 [*count*] : a member of a group of native people of northern North America and Greenland
2 [*noncount*] : the language of the Inuit people

in•un•date /'ɪnənˌdeɪt/ *verb* **-dates**; **-dat•ed**; **-dat•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to cause (someone or something) to receive or take in a large amount of things at the same time ▪ Hundreds of letters *inundated* [=*flooded*] the office. — often + *with* ▪ The salesman *inundated* [=*overwhelmed*] them *with* information. — often used as *(be) inundated* ▪ The office *was inundated with* calls/letters. ▪ She *was inundated* [=*swamped*] *with* requests.
2 *formal* : to cover (something) with a flood of water : FLOOD ▪ Rising rivers could *inundate* low-lying areas. — often used as *(be) inundated* ▪ Low-lying areas could *be inundated* by rising rivers.
– **in•un•da•tion** /ˌɪnən'deɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count, noncount*]

in•ure /ɪ'nuɚ, ɪ'njuɚ/ *verb* **-ures**; **-ured**; **-ur•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to cause (someone) to be less affected by something unpleasant : to cause (someone) to be less sensitive *to* something unpleasant ▪ Does violence on television *inure* children *to* violence in real life?
– **inured** *adj* — + *to* ▪ Are children *inured to* violence? ▪ We quickly became *inured to* his sarcasm.

in•vade /ɪn'veɪd/ *verb* **-vades**; **-vad•ed**; **-vad•ing**
1 : to enter (a place, such as a foreign country) in order to take control by military force [+ *obj*] *invade* a country [*no obj*] The troops *invaded* at dawn.
2 a : to enter (a place) in large numbers [+ *obj*] Ants *invaded* the kitchen. ▪ Tourists *invaded* the town. [*no obj*] When tourists *invade*, the town is a very different place. **b** [+ *obj*] : to enter or be in (a place where you are not wanted) ▪ She was ***invading my space*** [=she was too close to me; she was in the place/space where I was or where I wanted to be]
3 : to spread over or into (something) in a harmful way [+ *obj*] The cancer eventually *invaded* the brain. ▪ Weeds had *invaded* the garden. ▪ Doubts *invaded* my mind. [=I began to have many doubts] [*no obj*] Bacteria *invaded* and caused infection.
4 [+ *obj*] : to affect (something, such as your life or privacy) in an unwanted way ▪ He thinks people were happier before TV and the Internet *invaded* our lives. ▪ Photographers ***invaded her privacy***. [=caused her to lose her privacy; intruded on her privacy]
– **in•vad•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ The city was attacked by *invaders* from the north.

[1]in•val•id /ɪn'vælәd/ *adj* : not valid: such as **a** : having no force or effect ▪ The judge declared that the contract was *invalid*. **b** : not based on truth or fact : not logical or correct ▪ an *invalid* argument

[2]in•va•lid /'ɪnvәlәd, *Brit* 'ɪnvəˌli:d/ *noun, pl* **-lids** [*count*] : a person who needs to be cared for because of injury or illness ▪ Her husband has become an *invalid*. — often used before another noun ▪ She cares for her *invalid* husband at home

[3]in•va•lid /'ɪnvәlәd, *Brit* 'ɪnvəˌli:d/ *verb* **-lids**; **-lid•ed**; **-lid•ing** [+ *obj*] *Brit* : to release (someone) from active military service because of illness or injury — usually used as *(be) invalided* ▪ He *was invalided* out of the army. ▪ He *was invalided* home.

in•val•i•date /ɪn'vælәˌdeɪt/ *verb* **-dates**; **-dat•ed**; **-da•ting** [+ *obj*] : to make (something) invalid: such as **a** : to weaken or destroy the effect of (something) ▪ actions that will *invalidate* the contract ▪ *invalidate* a marriage ▪ *invalidate* an election **b** : to show or prove (something) to be false or incorrect ▪ The study *invalidates* earlier theories. ▪ factors that may *invalidate* the test results

in•val•id•i•ty /ˌɪnvə'lɪdәti/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal*
1 : the state of having no force or effect : the state of being invalid ▪ the *invalidity* of the contract/election
2 *Brit* : the state or condition of being unable to work because of illness or injury : the state or condition of being invalid ▪ an injured worker forced to live on *invalidity* benefits

in•valu•able /ɪn'væljәbәl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : extremely valuable or useful ▪ an *invaluable* experience ▪ Their help has been *invaluable* to us. ▪ *invaluable* information/advice

in•vari•able /ɪn'verijәbәl/ *adj* : not changing or capable of change : staying the same : not variable ▪ an *invariable* routine
– **in•vari•ably** /ɪn'verijәbli/ *adv* ▪ He is *invariably* [=*always*] courteous. ▪ The disease is *invariably* fatal.

in•va•sion /ɪn'veɪʒən/ *noun, pl* **-sions**
1 : the act of invading something: such as **a** : the act of entering a place in an attempt to take control of it [*count*] The enemy launched/mounted an *invasion*. ▪ the *invasion* of France [*noncount*] The people live under a constant threat of *invasion*. **b** : the act of entering a place in large numbers especially in a way that is harmful or unwanted [*count*] The town is gearing up for the annual tourist *invasion*. ▪ an *invasion* of/by insects [*noncount*] protecting the house from insect *invasion*
2 ✧ An ***invasion of privacy*** is a situation in which someone tries to get information about a person's private life in an unwanted and usually improper way. ▪ I consider these questions to be an *invasion of my privacy*. ▪ Is drug testing an *invasion of privacy*?

in•va•sive /ɪn'veɪsɪv/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]
1 : tending to spread ▪ The cancer is *invasive*. ▪ *invasive* plants
2 *medical* : involving entry into the body by cutting or by inserting an instrument ▪ an *invasive* medical procedure

in•vec•tive /ɪn'vɛktɪv/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : harsh or insulting words : rude and angry language ▪ a barrage/stream of racist *invective*

in•veigh /ɪn'veɪ/ *verb* **-veighs**; **-veighed**; **-veigh•ing**
inveigh against [*phrasal verb*] ***inveigh against (someone or something)*** *formal* : to protest or complain about (something or someone) very strongly ▪ Employees *inveighed against* mandatory overtime.

in•vei•gle /ɪn'veɪgәl/ *verb* **-vei•gles**; **-vei•gled**; **-vei•gling** [+ *obj*] *formal*
1 : to persuade (someone) to do something in a clever or deceptive way ▪ She *inveigled* him to write the letter. — usually + *into* ▪ They tried to *inveigle* her *into* taking the job.
2 : to get (something) in a clever or deceptive way ▪ We *inveigled* the information from him. ▪ He ***inveigled his way*** into a position of authority. [=he gained a position of authority by using trickery]

in•vent /ɪn'vɛnt/ *verb* **-vents**; **-vent•ed**; **-ven•ting** [+ *obj*]
1 : to create or produce (something useful) for the first time

▪ Thomas Edison *invented* the phonograph. ▪ She is credited with *inventing* a procedure that has helped to save thousands of lives. ▪ *invent* a new word

2 : to create or make up (something, such as a story) in order to trick people ▪ She *invented* a clever excuse/story. ▪ We found out that he had *invented* the stories he told us about his military service.

– **in•ven•tor** /ɪn'vɛntɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*] ▪ Thomas Edison was a great *inventor*.

in•ven•tion /ɪn'vɛnʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**

1 : something invented: such as **a** [*count*] : a useful new device or process ▪ The light bulb was one of the most important *inventions* of the 19th century. **b** : something (such as a false story) that is made up [*count*] The stories he told about his military service were just *inventions*. [*noncount*] His explanation was pure *invention*. ▪ Parts of the movie were accurate, but much of it was *invention*.

2 [*noncount*] : the act of inventing something ▪ the *invention* of a new product ▪ the *invention* of a false story ▪ Don't believe everything she tells you. She's prone to *invention*. [=*exaggeration, lying*]

3 [*noncount*] : the ability to think of new ideas ▪ an artist with exceptional powers of *invention* — see also *necessity is the mother of invention* at [1]MOTHER

in•ven•tive /ɪn'vɛntɪv/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having or showing an ability to think of new ideas and methods : creative or imaginative ▪ an *inventive* child/artist ▪ They have given their new company an *inventive* name.

– **in•ven•tive•ly** *adv* – **in•ven•tive•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

in•ven•to•ry /'ɪnvən,tori, *Brit* 'ɪnvəntri/ *noun, pl* **-ries**

1 [*count*] : a complete list of the things that are in a place ▪ an *inventory* of supplies ▪ We made an *inventory* of the library's collection.

2 *chiefly US* : a supply of goods that are stored in a place [*count*] The dealer keeps a large *inventory* of used cars and trucks. ▪ *Inventories* at both stores were low. [*noncount*] How can a small business afford to keep so much *inventory*?

3 [*noncount*] *chiefly US* : the act or process of making a complete list of the things that are in a place : the act or process of making an inventory ▪ We'll be doing *inventory* on the collection soon. — called also (*Brit*) *stocktaking*

inventory *verb* **-ries**; **-ried**; **-ry•ing** [+ *obj*] : to make a complete list of (the things in a place) : to make an inventory of (something) ▪ We'll be *inventorying* the collection soon.

in•verse /ɪn'vɚs, 'ɪn,vɚs/ *adj, always used before a noun*

1 — used to describe two things that are related in such a way that as one becomes larger the other becomes smaller ▪ The study indicates an *inverse* relationship between the unemployment rate and inflation. [=as the unemployment rate drops, inflation rises] ▪ My interest in his books declined in *inverse* proportion to his popularity. [=my interest declined as his books became more popular]

2 *technical* : opposite in nature or effect ▪ Addition and subtraction are *inverse* operations.

– **in•verse•ly** *adv*

inverse /ɪn'vɚs, 'ɪn,vɚs/ *noun* [*singular*] *formal + technical* : something that is the opposite of something else ▪ the *inverse* of your argument

inversely proportional *adj* : related so that as one becomes larger the other becomes smaller ▪ The study indicates that the unemployment rate and inflation are *inversely proportional*. — compare DIRECTLY PROPORTIONAL

in•ver•sion /ɪn'vɚʒən/ *noun, pl* **-sions**

1 *formal* : a change in the position, order, or relationship of things so that they are the opposite of what they had been [*count*] an *inversion* of the roles of parent and child [*noncount*] *Inversion* of the two words changes the meaning of the sentence.

2 [*count, noncount*] *weather* : a condition in which air close to the ground is cooler than the air above it ▪ (a) temperature *inversion*

in•vert /ɪn'vɚt/ *verb* **-verts**; **-vert•ed**; **-ver•ting** [+ *obj*] *formal*

1 : to turn (something) upside down ▪ *invert* a bowl ▪ The lens *inverts* the image. ▪ The number 9 looks like an *inverted* 6. ▪ an *inverted* image

2 : to change the position, order, or relationship of things so that they are the opposite of what they had been ▪ *invert* the order of two words in a sentence

in•ver•te•brate /ɪn'vɚtəbrət/ *noun, pl* **-brates** [*count*] : a type of animal that does not have a backbone ▪ Worms are *invertebrates*. — compare VERTEBRATE

– **invertebrate** *adj* ▪ *invertebrate* species

inverted comma *noun, pl* ~ **-mas** [*count*] *Brit* : QUOTATION MARK

in•vest /ɪn'vɛst/ *verb* **-vests**; **-vest•ed**; **-ves•ting**

1 : to use money to earn more money : to use your money to purchase stock in a company, to buy property, etc., in order to make future profit [*no obj*] She has always *invested* conservatively/aggressively. — often + *in* ▪ He made a fortune by *investing in* real estate. [+ *obj*] She *invested* her inheritance money. ▪ *invested* money — often + *in* ▪ He *invested* his savings *in* the business.

2 a : to spend (money) on building or improving something — usually + *in* [+ *obj*] The city will *invest* millions of dollars *in* two new schools. [*no obj*] The city plans to *invest* heavily *in* its educational system this year. **b** [+ *obj*] : to give your time or effort in order to do something or make something better — usually + *in* ▪ A lot of effort was *invested in* the project. ▪ We need to *invest* more time *in* educating our children. ▪ (*chiefly US*) She is ***deeply invested in*** this project [=she has given a lot of time and effort to this project and cares about it very much] and wants it to succeed.

3 [+ *obj*] *formal* : to provide (someone or something) *with* (something) ▪ The United States Constitution *invests* the President *with* certain powers. [=gives certain powers to the President] ▪ The emperor claimed to be *invested with* power by the gods. ▪ The promotion *invested* her *with* confidence. [=made her confident]

invest as [*phrasal verb*] ***invest (someone) as (something)*** *formal* : to give (someone) the power and authority of (a particular position or title) ▪ The group *invested* her *as* chairperson.

invest in [*phrasal verb*] ***invest in (something)*** *informal* : to spend money on (something useful or helpful to yourself) ▪ I am planning to *invest in* [=*buy, purchase*] a good coat.

– **investing** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ I read a book on *investing* before I bought stocks and bonds. – **in•ves•tor** /ɪn'vɛstɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*]

in•ves•ti•gate /ɪn'vɛstə,geɪt/ *verb* **-gates**; **-gat•ed**; **-gating**

1 : to try to find out the facts about (something, such as a crime or an accident) in order to learn how it happened, who did it, etc. [+ *obj*] The police are still *investigating* the murder. ▪ The accident was thoroughly *investigated*. [*no obj*] The manager promised to *investigate* when we pointed out an error on our bill.

2 [+ *obj*] : to try to get information about (someone who may have done something illegal) ▪ He was *investigated* for his involvement in the incident.

– **in•ves•ti•ga•tion** /ɪn,vɛstə'geɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*] Police began an *investigation* into/of the incident. [*noncount*] The accident is ***under investigation***. [=being investigated] – **in•ves•ti•ga•tor** /ɪn'vɛstə,geɪtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*] ▪ *Investigators* revealed their findings.

in•ves•ti•ga•tive /ɪn'vɛstə,geɪtɪv/ *adj, always used before a noun* : of, relating to, or involving investigation ▪ *investigative* methods/work/journalism/reporting

in•ves•ti•ga•to•ry /ɪn'vɛstɪgə,tori, *Brit* ɪn'vɛstɪgətri/ *adj, always used before a noun* : INVESTIGATIVE

in•ves•ti•ture /ɪn'vɛstəʧɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tures** [*count, noncount*] *formal* : a formal ceremony at which someone is placed in an office or given an official rank ▪ the *investiture* of the Prince of Wales

in•vest•ment /ɪn'vɛstmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments**

1 a : the act of using money to earn more money : the act of investing money [*noncount*] He became wealthy by shrewd *investment* of his money in the stock market. ▪ She got a good return on her *investment*. [=her investment earned a good profit] ▪ The company hopes to attract foreign *investment*. [=hopes that foreign people/companies will invest money in it] [*count*] Buying the house was a good *investment*. ▪ The financial company offers several kinds of *investments*. **b** [*count*] : an amount of money that is invested in something ▪ Her initial *investment* was $2,000.

2 [*count*] : something that you buy with the idea that it will increase in value, usefulness, etc. ▪ The house turned out to be a good *investment*. [=the house increased in value and they made a good profit when they sold it] ▪ A college education is a very good *investment*.

3 a : the act of spending money on something that is valuable or expected to be useful or helpful [*noncount*] The government has set aside money for *investment* in public transportation. [*count*] The company needs to make more

investments in technology. **b** [*count, noncount*] : the act of giving your time or effort in order to accomplish something or make something better ▪ The project will require (a) substantial *investment* of time and energy.

in•vet•er•ate /ɪnˈvɛtərət/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal + often disapproving*
1 : always or often doing something specified ▪ She's an *inveterate* reader/traveler. ▪ an *inveterate* liar
2 : always or often happening or existing ▪ her *inveterate* optimism ▪ his *inveterate* tendency to overlook the obvious
– **in•vet•er•ate•ly** *adv* ▪ *inveterately* optimistic

in•vid•i•ous /ɪnˈvɪdijəs/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal* : unpleasant and likely to cause bad feelings in other people ▪ *invidious* remarks ▪ an *invidious* comparison/choice ▪ The boss made *invidious* distinctions between employees.

in•vig•i•late /ɪnˈvɪʤəˌleɪt/ *verb* **-lates**; **-lat•ed**; **-lat•ing** *Brit* : to watch students who are taking an examination : PROCTOR [+ *obj*] *invigilate* an exam [*no obj*] He was asked to *invigilate* next week.
– **in•vig•i•la•tor** /ɪnˈvɪʤəˌleɪtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*]

in•vig•o•rate /ɪnˈvɪgəˌreɪt/ *verb* **-rates**; **-rat•ed**; **-rat•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to give life and energy to (someone) ▪ A brisk walk in the cool morning air always *invigorates* me. ▪ He was *invigorated* by the positive feedback.
2 : to cause (something) to become more active and lively ▪ The mayor has plans to *invigorate* the downtown economy.
– **invigorating** *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ an *invigorating* walk

in•vin•ci•ble /ɪnˈvɪnsəbəl/ *adj* : impossible to defeat or overcome : UNBEATABLE ▪ an *invincible* army ▪ The loss proved that the team is not *invincible*.
– **in•vin•ci•bil•i•ty** /ɪnˌvɪnsəˈbɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*]

in•vi•o•la•ble /ɪnˈvajələbəl/ *adj, formal* : too important to be ignored or treated with disrespect ▪ an *inviolable* oath/law/right
– **in•vi•o•la•bil•i•ty** /ɪnˌvajələˈbɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *inviolability* of the law

in•vi•o•late /ɪnˈvajələt/ *adj, formal* : not harmed or changed ▪ These rights must remain *inviolate*.

in•vis•i•ble /ɪnˈvɪzəbəl/ *adj*
1 : impossible to see : not visible ▪ Sound waves are *invisible*. ▪ a thriller about an *invisible* man ▪ With the telescope we can see details of the planet's surface that are ordinarily *invisible*. ▪ It felt like I was *invisible* at the party. [=no one was paying any attention to me at the party] ▪ She feels as if her success is being blocked by an *invisible* barrier. ▪ Homelessness is no longer an *invisible* problem for this city. ▪ a letter written in ***invisible ink*** [=ink that can only be seen when it is specially treated in some way]
2 *chiefly Brit, finance* — used to describe money from foreign countries that is received from providing services (such as banking and tourism) rather than from selling products ▪ *invisible* earnings ▪ *invisible* exports
– **in•vis•i•bil•i•ty** /ɪnˌvɪzəˈbɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] – **in•vis•i•bly** /ɪnˈvɪzəbli/ *adv* ▪ a hearing aid that fits *invisibly* in the ear

in•vi•ta•tion /ˌɪnvəˈteɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**
1 [*count*] : a written or spoken request for someone to go somewhere or to do something ▪ We sent out more than 100 *invitations* for the party. ▪ He accepted/declined our *invitation*. ▪ an *invitation* to lunch/dinner ▪ a wedding *invitation* ▪ You have a ***standing/open invitation*** [=you are always welcome; you are always invited] to visit us any time.
2 [*noncount*] : the act of inviting someone ▪ She attended the fund-raiser ***at the invitation of*** the committee chairperson. [=she attended because she was invited by the committee chairperson] ▪ The event is ***by invitation only***. [=only people who have been invited to the event can attend it]
3 [*singular*] : something that encourages someone to do something or that makes something more likely to happen — + *to* ▪ She treated his request for help as an *invitation to* take control of his life. ▪ Leaving valuables unattended is an (open) *invitation to* thieves (to steal them). ▪ His letter to the newspaper was an *invitation to* criticism. ▪ Speeding is an *invitation to* disaster/trouble.

in•vi•ta•tion•al /ˌɪnvəˈteɪʃənl/ *adj, US, sports* : limited to people who have been invited to compete ▪ an *invitational* tournament
– **invitational** *noun, pl* **-als** [*count*] ▪ The tournament is an *invitational*.

[1]in•vite /ɪnˈvaɪt/ *verb* **-vites**; **-vit•ed**; **-vit•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 a : to ask (someone) to go somewhere or do something ▪ He *invited* a few friends (to come) over to his house after work. ▪ She *invited* them (to go) out to dinner. ▪ I visited their house once, but they've never *invited* me back. ▪ I'm planning to *invite* them for the weekend. ▪ Aren't you going to *invite* me in for a coffee? ▪ The event is limited to *invited* guests.
b : to ask (someone) formally or politely to do something ▪ Employees are *invited* to apply for the new position. ▪ The college *invited* her to speak at the graduation ceremony. **c** : to request (something) formally or politely ▪ The company *invites* suggestions from customers.
2 : to make (something unwanted) more likely to happen ▪ behavior that *invites* criticism ▪ *invite* disaster by speeding

[2]in•vite /ˈɪnˌvaɪt/ *noun, pl* **-vites** [*count*] *informal* : INVITATION 1 ▪ Did you send out the *invites* to the party? ▪ Thanks for the *invite*!

in•vit•ing /ɪnˈvaɪtɪŋ/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : attractive in a way that makes you want to do something, go somewhere, be near someone, etc. ▪ an *inviting* prospect ▪ The room is very *inviting*. [=*pleasant, cozy*] ▪ He has an *inviting* [=*friendly, warm*] smile.
– **in•vit•ing•ly** *adv* ▪ desserts arranged *invitingly* on the table

in vi•tro /ɪnˈviːtroʊ/ *adj, technical* : outside the body ▪ an *in vitro* study/test ▪ a baby conceived through ***in vitro fertilization*** [=fertilization of an egg outside the mother's body]
– **in vitro** *adv* ▪ an egg fertilized *in vitro*

in•vo•ca•tion /ˌɪnvəˈkeɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**
1 *formal* : the act of mentioning or referring to someone or something in support of your ideas : the act of invoking something — + *of* [*count*] his repeated *invocations of* the ancient philosophers [*noncount*] justifying his position by *invocation of* the past
2 *literary* : the act of asking for help or support especially from a god [*count*] The poem begins with an *invocation* of/to the Muses. [*noncount*] by *invocation* of God
3 [*count*] *US* : a prayer for blessing or guidance at the beginning of a service, ceremony, etc. ▪ They began the meeting with an *invocation*.

[1]in•voice /ˈɪnˌvɔɪs/ *noun, pl* **-voic•es** [*count*] : a document that shows a list of goods or services and the prices to be paid for them : BILL ▪ Payment is due within 30 days after receipt of the *invoice*. — see also PRO FORMA INVOICE

[2]invoice *verb* **-voices**; **-voiced**; **-voic•ing** [+ *obj*] : to send or give (someone) a bill for a purchase or service : to submit an invoice to (someone) ▪ They will *invoice* you directly.

in•voke /ɪnˈvoʊk/ *verb* **-vokes**; **-voked**; **-vok•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal*
1 a : to mention (someone or something) in an attempt to make people feel a certain way or have a certain idea in their mind ▪ He *invoked* the memory/name of his predecessor. **b** : to refer to (something) in support of your ideas ▪ She *invoked* history to prove her point.
2 : to make use of (a law, a right, etc.) ▪ He *invoked* his Fifth Amendment privileges. ▪ The suspect *invoked* his right to an attorney.
3 : to ask for help or protection from (something or someone) ▪ They *invoked* God's mercy. ▪ *invoke* the authority of the court

in•vol•un•tary /ɪnˈvɑːlənˌteri, *Brit* ɪnˈvɒləntri/ *adj* : not voluntary: such as **a** : not done or made consciously ▪ Breathing and circulation are *involuntary* processes. ▪ *involuntary* bodily movements ▪ When the door burst open, she let out an *involuntary* shriek. **b** : not done by choice ▪ *involuntary* [=*forced*] labor ▪ The lawyer argued that the client's confession was *involuntary*. ▪ *involuntary* unemployment
– **in•vol•un•tar•i•ly** /ɪnˌvɑːlənˈterəli, *Brit* ɪnˈvɒləntrəli/ *adv*

in•volve /ɪnˈvɑːlv/ *verb* **-volves**; **-volved**; **-volv•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 a : to have or include (someone or something) as a part of something ▪ Does this *involve* me? ▪ The accident *involved* three cars. = Three cars were *involved* in the accident. ▪ He told us a story *involving* life on a farm. **b** : to cause (someone) to be included in some activity, situation, etc. : to cause (someone) to take part in something — usually + *in* ▪ I didn't intend to *involve* you *in* this mess. ▪ The teacher tried to *involve* all the children *in* the game. ▪ She ***involves herself in*** [=she participates in] everything they do. **c** : to cause (someone) to be associated *with* someone or something ▪ She remained *involved with* the organization for many years.
2 : to require (something) as a necessary part ▪ "Just what does this job *involve*?" "It *involves* [=*entails*] traveling and a lot of overtime." ▪ Renovating the house *involved* hiring a contractor.
3 : to affect (something) ▪ The disease continued to spread

until it *involved* the entire jaw.
– **in•volve•ment** /ɪnˈvɑːlvmənt/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ *Involvement* with/in the community is important to him. ▪ Her *involvement* with the museum lasted over two decades. ▪ He denied any *involvement* in the crime. ▪ No one knew of their romantic *involvement*. [=no one knew that they had a romantic relationship]

in•volved /ɪnˈvɑːlvd/ *adj*
1 [*more ~; most ~*] : very complicated ▪ a long and *involved* story ▪ The instructions for assembling the toy are very *involved*. ▪ The process is quite *involved*.
2 *not used before a noun* **a** : having a part in something : included in something ▪ Those of us who were *involved* knew exactly what happened. — often + *in* ▪ He is *involved in* a lawsuit. ▪ I don't want to become *involved in* this argument. ▪ This department was not *involved in* the decision. **b** [*more ~; most ~*] : actively participating in something ▪ Students who stay *involved* get more out of the program. ▪ If you want to make things better, you need to get *involved*. — often + *in* ▪ You need to get *involved in* making things better. ▪ She was so *involved* [=*engrossed*] *in* her work that she didn't hear the phone ring. **c** : having a romantic or sexual relationship ▪ They quickly became romantically *involved*. ▪ No one knew that they were *involved*. — often + *with* ▪ She became romantically *involved with* a married man.

in•vul•ner•a•ble /ɪnˈvʌlnərəbəl/ *adj* : impossible to harm, damage, or defeat ▪ teenagers who think they are *invulnerable* ▪ The candidate seems to be in an *invulnerable* position. ▪ The team seems *invulnerable* this season. — often + *to* ▪ a city *invulnerable to* invasion
– **in•vul•ner•a•bil•i•ty** /ɪnˌvʌlnərəˈbɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1in•ward /ˈɪnwəd/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]
1 *always used before a noun* : of or relating to a person's mind or spirit ▪ *inward* [=(more commonly) *inner*] peace ▪ *inward* feelings
2 : directed or moving toward the inside of something ▪ an *inward* flow/curve — opposite OUTWARD

2inward *also chiefly Brit* **in•wards** /ˈɪnwədz/ *adv*
1 : toward the inside of something ▪ The window faces *inward* toward the courtyard. ▪ The door opens *inward*. — opposite OUTWARD
2 : toward the mind or spirit ▪ He turned his attention *inward*.

in•ward•ly /ˈɪnwədli/ *adv* : in a way that is not openly shown or stated : on the inside ▪ He chuckled/smiled/cursed *inwardly*. ▪ She was outwardly calm but *inwardly* nervous. — opposite OUTWARDLY

in–your–face /ˌɪnjəˈfeɪs/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *informal* : very direct and forceful : very aggressive ▪ *in-your-face* advertising ▪ an *in-your-face* style of basketball — see also *in someone's face* at 1FACE

io•dine /ˈajəˌdaɪn, *Brit* ˈajəˌdiːn/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a chemical element that is used especially in medicine and photography

ion /ˈaɪˌɑːn, ˈajən/ *noun, pl* **ions** [*count*] *technical* : an atom or group of atoms that has a positive or negative electric charge from losing or gaining one or more electrons

-ion *noun suffix*
1 a : act or process ▪ validation ▪ refrigeration ▪ rebellion **b** : result of an act or process ▪ regulation ▪ rejection
2 : state or condition ▪ perfection

io•ta /aɪˈoʊtə/ *noun* [*singular*] : a very small amount — usually used in negative statements ▪ That doesn't bother me one *iota*. [=that doesn't bother me at all] ▪ There isn't an *iota* of truth in what he says.

IOU /ˌaɪˌoʊˈjuː/ *noun, pl* **IOUs** [*count*] *informal* : a usually written promise to pay a debt ▪ I don't have any cash, so I'll have to give you an *IOU*. — often used figuratively ▪ The governor has acquired some political *IOUs* over the years. [=other people owe the governor political favors] ✧ *IOU* is from the pronunciation of the phrase "I owe you."

IPA /ˌaɪˌpiːˈeɪ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a system of symbols that represent all of the sounds made in speech ✧ *IPA* is an abbreviation of "International Phonetic Alphabet."

IPO /ˌaɪˌpiːˈoʊ/ *noun, pl* **IPOs** [*count*] : the first time a company's stock is offered for sale to the public ✧ *IPO* is an abbreviation of "initial public offering."

ip•so fac•to /ˈɪpsoʊˈfæktoʊ/ *adv, formal* : because of that fact : because of the fact that has just been mentioned ▪ He thinks that anyone wearing a suit and tie is *ipso facto* a conservative. [=that anyone wearing a suit and tie must be a conservative]

IQ /ˌaɪˈkjuː/ *noun, pl* **IQs** [*count*] : a number that represents your intelligence and that is based on your score on a special test ▪ children with high *IQs* ▪ They wanted me to take an *IQ* test. ✧ *IQ* is an abbreviation of "intelligence quotient."

ir- see IN-

1IRA /ˌaɪˌɑəˈeɪ/ *noun, pl* **IRAs** [*count*] *US* : a special account in which you can save and invest money for your retirement without having to pay taxes on the money until a later time ✧ *IRA* is an abbreviation of "individual retirement account."

2IRA *abbr* Irish Republican Army ▪ a representative of the *IRA* ▪ an *IRA* attack

iras•ci•ble /ɪˈræsəbəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : becoming angry very easily : having a bad temper ▪ an *irascible* old football coach ▪ He has an *irascible* disposition/temper.

irate /aɪˈreɪt/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : very angry ▪ *Irate* viewers called the television network to complain about the show. ▪ an *irate* neighbor

ire /ˈajə/ *noun* [*noncount*] : intense anger ▪ He directed his *ire* at the coworkers who reported the incident. ▪ The proposal has raised/roused/provoked the *ire* of environmentalists. [=has made environmentalists angry]

ir•i•des•cent /ˌɪrəˈdɛsn̩t/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : shining with many different colors when seen from different angles ▪ an *iridescent* gemstone
– **ir•i•des•cence** /ˌɪrəˈdɛsn̩s/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ The stone shone with a beautiful *iridescence*.

iris /ˈaɪrəs/ *noun, pl* **iris•es** [*count*]
1 : the colored part of your eye — see picture at EYE
2 *pl* ***irises*** *also* ***iris*** : a plant with long pointed leaves and large blue or yellow flowers — see color picture on page C6

1Irish /ˈaɪrɪʃ/ *adj* : of or relating to Ireland, its people, or the Gaelic language that is spoken in Ireland ▪ *Irish* culture ▪ the *Irish* coast ▪ people of *Irish* descent ▪ *Irish* grammar

2Irish *noun, pl* **Irish**
1 [*plural*] : the people of Ireland : Irish people ▪ the *Irish* in America ▪ How many *Irish* are there in England?
2 [*noncount*] : the Gaelic language of Ireland ▪ Do you speak *Irish*?

Irish coffee *noun, pl* **~ -fees** [*count, noncount*] : a drink of hot coffee with sugar, whiskey, and usually whipped cream

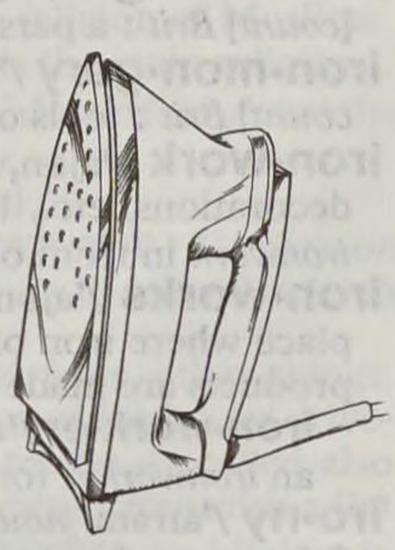
Irish•man /ˈaɪrɪʃmən/ *noun, pl* **-men** /-mən/ [*count*] : an Irish man

Irish•wom•an /ˈaɪrɪʃˌwʊmən/ *noun, pl* **-wom•en** /-ˌwɪmən/ [*count*] : an Irish woman

irk /ˈɚk/ *verb* **irks**; **irked**; **irk•ing** [+ *obj*] : to bother or annoy (someone) ▪ Drivers were *irked* by the higher gasoline prices. ▪ It *irks* me to have to clean up after you.

irk•some /ˈɚksəm/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : annoying or irritating ▪ the *irksome* task of cleaning up ▪ *irksome* rules

1iron /ˈajɚn/ *noun, pl* **irons**
1 [*noncount*] : a heavy type of metal that is very common, occurs naturally in blood, and is used to make steel and in many products ▪ The bars/chains are (made of) *iron*. ▪ She has an *iron* deficiency. [=she does not have enough iron in her blood] — sometimes used figuratively ▪ an athlete with legs/muscles of *iron* [=very strong legs/muscles] ▪ She has a will of *iron*. [=she has a very strong will] — see also CAST IRON, WROUGHT IRON
2 [*count*] : a device with a flat metal base that is heated and is used to press wrinkles out of clothing ▪ a heated *iron* — see also CURLING IRON, SOLDERING IRON, WAFFLE IRON
3 [*count*] : a golf club that has a metal head and is identified by a number ▪ a five-*iron* — compare WOOD
4 ***irons*** [*plural*] : chains placed on a prisoner's arms or legs ▪ They clapped/put the prisoner in *irons*. ▪ They slapped leg *irons* on him.
irons in the fire : activities or projects that someone is involved in ▪ Although he won't say exactly what he's working on now, he says he has quite a few *irons in the fire*.
pump iron see 2PUMP
strike while the iron is hot see 1STRIKE


iron

2iron *adj*
1 : made of iron ▪ *iron* bars/chains ▪ an *iron* fence
2 *always used before a noun* : very strong ▪ He has an *iron* constitution. [=he is very strong and healthy] ▪ She has an

iron will. [=she is very determined to get what she wants] ▪ an *iron* grip

iron man : a man who is very strong and is able to do something (such as play a sport) for a long time without injury or illness

rule with an iron fist/hand, rule with a rod of iron see [2]RULE

[3]iron *verb* **irons; ironed; iron•ing** : to use a heated iron to make clothing or fabric smooth [+ *obj*] I *ironed* the shirt. [*no obj*] I *ironed* all morning.

iron out [*phrasal verb*] ***iron (something) out*** *or* ***iron out (something)*** **1** : to remove (wrinkles) in cloth by using a heated iron ▪ She *ironed* the wrinkles *out* of the dress. ▪ Do you think we can *iron out* the creases in those curtains? **2 a** : to find a solution to (something) : to fix or correct (something) ▪ It'll take us a while longer to *iron out* the wrinkles/kinks in the network. [=to fix the small problems in the network] ▪ We haven't been able to *iron out* our differences. ▪ They're trying to ***iron things out***. [=work out their difficulties] **b** : to reach an agreement about (something) ▪ The final details of the contract still have to be *ironed out*.

Iron Age *noun*

the Iron Age : a period of time between about 3000 B.C. and 1000 B.C. in which people used iron to make weapons and tools ▪ *The Iron Age* followed the Bronze Age. ▪ an *Iron Age* tool — compare BRONZE AGE, STONE AGE

iron•clad /ˈajɚnˈklæd/ *adj*

1 : not able to be changed ▪ The company has an *ironclad* policy/rule against revealing secrets to competitors. ▪ an *ironclad* promise

2 : too strong to be doubted or questioned ▪ He has an *ironclad* alibi. ▪ *ironclad* proof/evidence

Iron Curtain *noun*

the Iron Curtain : the political and military barrier in the past that separated the communist countries of Europe from the rest of Europe ▪ a spy novel that takes place behind *the Iron Curtain*

iron•ic /ˌaɪˈrɑːnɪk/ *also* **iron•i•cal** /ˌaɪˈrɑːnɪkəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : using words that mean the opposite of what you really think especially in order to be funny ▪ an *ironic* remark ▪ She has an *ironic* sense of humor. ▪ an *ironic* writing style

2 : strange or funny because something (such as a situation) is different from what you expected ▪ It's *ironic* that computers break down so often, since they're meant to save people time. ▪ It is *ironic* that the robber's car crashed into a police station.

– **iron•i•cal•ly** /aɪˈrɑːnɪkli/ *adv* ▪ He wrote *ironically* [=in an ironic way] about his experiences during the war. ▪ *Ironically*, [=it is ironic that] the robber's car crashed into a police station.

iron•ing /ˈajɚnɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : the activity of using an iron to smooth out clothes or fabric ▪ I hate *ironing*.

2 : clothes that need to be ironed ▪ a pile of *ironing*

ironing board *noun, pl* ~ **boards** [*count*] : a flat, padded surface on which clothes are ironed

iron•mon•ger /ˈajɚnˌmɑːŋgɚ, ˈajɚnˌmʌŋgɚ/ *noun, pl* **-gers** [*count*] *Brit* : a person who sells iron or metal tools

iron•mon•gery /ˈajɚnˌmɑːŋgəri, ˈajɚnˌmʌŋgəri/ *noun* [*noncount*] *Brit* : tools or equipment used in a house or garden

iron•work /ˈajɚnˌwɚk/ *noun* [*noncount*] : fences, railings, decorations, etc., that are made of iron ▪ We admired the *ironwork* in front of the house.

iron•works /ˈajɚnˌwɚks/ *noun, pl* **ironworks** [*count*] : a place where iron or steel is processed or where iron or steel products are made

– **iron•work•er** /ˈajɚnˌwɚkɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ He was an *ironworker* for 20 years.

iro•ny /ˈaɪrəni/ *noun, pl* **-nies**

1 [*noncount*] : the use of words that mean the opposite of what you really think especially in order to be funny ▪ a writer known for her clever use of *irony* ▪ "What a beautiful view," he said, his voice dripping with *irony*, as he looked out the window at the alley. ▪ She described her vacation with heavy *irony* as "an educational experience." — compare SARCASM

2 : a situation that is strange or funny because things happen in a way that seems to be the opposite of what you expected [*count*] It was a tragic *irony* that he made himself sick by worrying so much about his health. ▪ The (awful/bitter) *irony* is that in trying to forget her, he thought of her even more. That's just one of life's little *ironies*. [*noncount*] The *irony* o the situation was apparent to everyone. ▪ He has a strong sense of *irony*.

ir•ra•di•ate /ɪˈreɪdiˌeɪt/ *verb* **-ates; -at•ed; -at•ing** [+ *obj*] *technical* : to expose (someone or something) to radiation *irradiate* a tumor ▪ The food was *irradiated* to kill any germs

– **ir•ra•di•a•tion** /ɪˌreɪdiˈeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *irradiation* of the tumor

ir•ra•tio•nal /ɪˈræʃənəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not rational such as **a** : not thinking clearly : not able to use reason o good judgment ▪ He became *irrational* as the fever got worse **b** : not based on reason, good judgment, or clear thinking She had an *irrational* fear of cats. ▪ an *irrational* prejudice

– **ir•ra•tio•nal•i•ty** /ɪˌræʃəˈnæləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *irrationality* of her fear – **ir•ra•tio•nal•ly** /ɪˈræʃənəli/ *adv* He was behaving *irrationally*.

ir•rec•on•cil•able /ɪˌrɛkənˈsaɪləbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : so different that agreement is not possible ▪ *irreconcilable* theories ▪ theories that are *irreconcilable* with each other ▪ They are filing for divorce, citing ***irreconcilable differences***. [=they cannot agree on most things or on important things]

– **ir•rec•on•cil•ably** /ɪˌrɛkənˈsaɪləbli/ *adv* ▪ The two sides are *irreconcilably* opposed.

ir•re•cov•er•able /ˌɪrɪˈkʌvərəbəl/ *adj, formal* : impossible to recover or get back ▪ The past is *irrecoverable*. ▪ an *irrecoverable* loss

ir•re•deem•able /ˌɪrɪˈdiːməbəl/ *adj, formal* : not able to be saved, helped, or made better : HOPELESS ▪ She does not believe that anyone is completely *irredeemable*. ▪ Without intervention, the country could fall into *irredeemable* chaos.

– **ir•re•deem•ably** /ˌɪrɪˈdiːməbli/ *adv* ▪ The government was *irredeemably* corrupt.

ir•re•duc•ible /ɪrɪˈduːsəbəl, *Brit* ˌɪrɪˈdjuːsəbəl/ *adj, forma* : not able to be made smaller or simpler ▪ They thought the world was made up of four *irreducible* elements: earth, air fire, and water. ▪ an *irreducible* fraction

– **ir•re•duc•ibly** /ɪrɪˈduːsəbli, *Brit* ˌɪrɪˈdjuːsəbli/ *adv*

ir•re•fut•able /ˌɪrɪˈfjuːtəbəl, ɪˈrɛfjətəbəl/ *adj, formal* : no able to be proved wrong : not capable of being refuted There is *irrefutable* evidence that he committed these crimes

– **ir•re•fut•ably** /ˌɪrɪˈfjuːtəbli, ɪˈrɛfjətəbli/ *adv* ▪ The evidence shows *irrefutably* that he committed these crimes.

[1]ir•reg•u•lar /ɪˈrɛgjələɚ/ *adj*

1 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not normal or usual : not following the usual rules about what should be done ▪ His behavior as a teacher was highly *irregular*. ▪ Her application was handled in an *irregular* manner.

2 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not even or smooth : not regular in form or shape ▪ an *irregular* outline ▪ a very jagged, *irregular* surface ▪ The stone has an *irregular* shape.

3 [*more* ~; *most* ~] **a** : happening or done at different times that change often ▪ She has been working *irregular* hours [=she has been working for different amounts of time and at different times on different days] ▪ He has a very *irregular* schedule. **b** : not happening at times that are equally separated ▪ The festival has been held at *irregular* intervals. ▪ an *irregular* heartbeat

4 *grammar* : not following the normal patterns by which word forms (such as the past tenses of verbs) are usually created ▪ "Sell" is an *irregular* verb because its past tense is "sold."

5 *US* : not able to have normal bowel movements : CONSTIPATED

6 : not belonging to a country's official army ▪ *irregular* troops/soldiers

– **ir•reg•u•lar•ly** *adv* ▪ He has been behaving *irregularly*. ▪ an *irregularly* shaped stone

[2]irregular *noun, pl* **-lars** [*count*] : a soldier who does not belong to a country's official army

ir•reg•u•lar•i•ty /ɪˌrɛgjəˈlerəti/ *noun, pl* **-ties**

1 [*noncount*] : the quality or state of being irregular ▪ the *irregularity* of his behavior

2 [*count*] **a** : something that is irregular ▪ an *irregularity* [=a raised or rough area] on the surface of the jewel ▪ cardiac *irregularities* **b** : something that is not usual or proper and that usually indicates dishonest behavior — usually plural We uncovered *irregularities* in the town's finances.

3 [*noncount*] *US* : the state of not being able to have normal bowel movements : CONSTIPATION ▪ He is suffering from *irregularity*.

ir•rel•e•vant /ɪ'rɛləvənt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not important or relating to what is being discussed right now : not relevant • His comment is completely *irrelevant*. — sometimes + *to* • Her comments were *irrelevant to* our discussion.
– **ir•rel•e•vance** /ɪ'rɛləvəns/ *also* **ir•rel•e•van•cy** /ɪ'rɛləvənsi/ *noun, pl* **-van•cies** *also* **-vanc•es** [*noncount*] the *irrelevance* of his comments [*count*] He talked about the weather and other *irrelevancies*. – **ir•rel•e•vant•ly** *adv* • He talked *irrelevantly* about the weather.

ir•re•li•gious /ˌɪrɪ'lɪʤəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal*
1 : not believing in or practicing any religion • *irreligious* people
2 : having or showing a lack of respect for religion • *irreligious* remarks

ir•re•me•di•a•ble /ˌɪrɪ'mi:dijəbəl/ *adj, formal* : not able to be repaired or corrected • There was an *irremediable* split between the two sides of the family.

ir•rep•a•ra•ble /ɪ'rɛprəbəl/ *adj, formal* : too bad to be corrected or repaired • The oil spill did *irreparable* harm to the bay. • The damage to their relationship was *irreparable*.
– **ir•rep•a•ra•bly** /ɪ'rɛprəbli/ *adv* • His business was *irreparably* injured.

ir•re•place•able /ˌɪrɪ'pleɪsəbəl/ *adj* : too valuable or rare to be replaced : not replaceable • *irreplaceable* works of art

ir•re•press•ible /ˌɪrɪ'prɛsəbəl/ *adj*
1 : impossible to hold back, stop, or control • He has *irrepressible* curiosity.
2 : very lively and cheerful • an *irrepressible* child • She has an *irrepressible* sense of humor.
– **ir•re•press•ibly** /ˌɪrɪ'prɛsəbli/ *adv* • He is *irrepressibly* cheerful.

ir•re•proach•able /ˌɪrɪ'proʊʧəbəl/ *adj, formal* : not deserving criticism or blame : having no fault • His conduct as a police officer was *irreproachable*. • *irreproachable* manners
– **ir•re•proach•ably** /ˌɪrɪ'proʊʧəbli/ *adv* • He acted *irreproachably* at all times.

ir•re•sist•ible /ˌɪrɪ'zɪstəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : impossible to resist especially because of strength or attractiveness • The force of the waves was *irresistible*. • She had an *irresistible* [=very strong] craving for chocolate. • Women find him *irresistible*. [=women think he is very attractive]
– **ir•re•sist•ibly** /ˌɪrɪ'zɪstəbli/ *adv* • He was *irresistibly* attracted to her.

ir•res•o•lute /ɪ'rɛsəˌlu:t/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : not certain about what to do : not resolute • He has been criticized as an *irresolute* [=*indecisive*] leader.
– **ir•res•o•lute•ly** *adv* • He has wavered *irresolutely* from one opinion to another.

ir•re•spec•tive of /ˌɪrɪ'spɛktɪv-/ *prep, formal* : without thinking about or considering (something) • They are protected by the law, *irrespective of* race. [=regardless of race]

ir•re•spon•si•ble /ˌɪrɪ'spɑ:nsəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not having or showing maturity or good judgment : not responsible • He's too *irresponsible* to keep a job for more than a week. • She made *irresponsible* comments that helped cause the riot. • It would be *irresponsible* to ignore the threats.
– **ir•re•spon•si•bil•i•ty** /ˌɪrɪˌspɑ:nsə'bɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] • The students were criticized for their *irresponsibility*. – **ir•re•spon•si•bly** /ˌɪrɪ'spɑ:nsəbli/ *adv* [*more* ~; *most* ~] • She acted *irresponsibly*. • The funds were used *irresponsibly*.

ir•re•triev•able /ˌɪrɪ'tri:vəbəl/ *adj, somewhat formal* : impossible to recover or get back • The data was *irretrievable* after the computer crashed. • the *irretrievable* breakdown of a marriage
– **ir•re•triev•ably** /ˌɪrɪ'tri:vəbli/ *adv* • Their pictures were *irretrievably* lost in the flood. • Their marriage had broken down *irretrievably*.

ir•rev•er•ent /ɪ'rɛvərənt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having or showing a lack of respect for someone or something that is usually treated with respect : treating someone or something in a way that is not serious or respectful • He has a delightfully *irreverent* sense of humor. • *irreverent* portrayals of nuns • an *irreverent* comedian
– **ir•rev•er•ence** /ɪ'rɛvərəns/ *noun* [*noncount*] • She's a comedian known for her *irreverence*. – **ir•rev•er•ent•ly** *adv* • He joked *irreverently* about religion.

ir•re•vers•ible /ˌɪrɪ'vəsəbəl/ *adj, somewhat formal* : impossible to change back to a previous condition or state • He suffered an *irreversible* loss of vision. • The crisis has done *irreversible* harm to the countries' relations.
– **ir•re•vers•ibly** /ˌɪrɪ'vəsəbli/ *adv* • Their relationship has been *irreversibly* harmed.

ir•rev•o•ca•ble /ɪ'rɛvəkəbəl/ *adj, formal* : not capable of being changed : impossible to revoke • She has made an *irrevocable* decision. • an *irrevocable* change
– **ir•rev•o•ca•bly** /ɪ'rɛvəkəbli/ *adv* • Her life has been *irrevocably* changed.

ir•ri•gate /'irəˌgeɪt/ *verb* **-gates**; **-gat•ed**; **-gat•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to supply (something, such as land) with water by using artificial means (such as pipes) • *irrigate* a field • We *irrigate* our crops.
2 *medical* : to clean (a wound or a part of the body) with flowing liquid (such as water) • The surgeon *irrigated* the wound.
– **ir•ri•ga•tion** /ˌirə'geɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] • *irrigation* of the fields/crops

ir•ri•ta•ble /'irətəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : becoming angry or annoyed easily • My father is always *irritable* after a nap. • I came home from work feeling tired and *irritable*.
– **ir•ri•ta•bil•i•ty** /ˌirətə'bɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] • Side effects include fatigue and increased *irritability*. – **ir•ri•ta•bly** /'irətəbli/ *adv* • "What's taking so long?" he asked *irritably*.

ir•ri•tant /'irətənt/ *noun, pl* **-tants** [*count*]
1 : something that makes part of your body sore and painful • dust and other lung *irritants* • skin *irritants*
2 : something that is unpleasant or annoying : something that irritates you • The delay was a minor *irritant*.

ir•ri•tate /'irəˌteɪt/ *verb* **-tates**; **-tat•ed**; **-tat•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to make (someone) impatient, angry, or annoyed • It's his arrogance that really *irritates* me. • The other passengers were *irritated* by the child's rudeness.
2 : to make (part of your body) sore or painful • Harsh soaps can *irritate* the skin.
– **irritated** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] • I've never seen him looking so *irritated*. • an area of skin that is very *irritated* and sore – **irritating** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] • He's an *irritating* child. • The child's rudeness was very *irritating* to us. • Harsh soaps can be very *irritating* to the skin. – **ir•ri•tat•ing•ly** /'irəˌteɪtɪŋli/ *adv* • He's an *irritatingly* rude child. – **ir•ri•ta•tion** /ˌirə'teɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] You'll get over the *irritation* of being delayed. • harsh soaps that can cause *irritation* of the skin [*count*] We had to put up with delays and other *irritations*. • skin *irritations*

IRS *abbr* Internal Revenue Service • He was being audited by the *IRS*.

is see BE

Is. *abbr* island

ISBN /ˌaɪˌɛsˌbi:'ɛn/ *noun, pl* **ISBNs** [*count*] : a number that is given to a book when it is published and that is used to help identify the book — usually singular • Can you give me the 10-digit *ISBN*? ✧ *ISBN* is an abbreviation of "International Standard Book Number."

-ise *Brit spelling of* -IZE

-ish *adj suffix* : almost or approximately • The car is *greenish*. [=the car is a color that is almost green] • She looks to be about *fiftyish*. [=she looks like she is around 50 years old]

Is•lam /ɪ'slɑ:m, 'ɪzˌlɑ:m/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : the religion which teaches that there is only one God and that Muhammad is God's prophet : the religion of Muslims
2 : the modern nations in which Islam is the main religion
– **Is•lam•ic** /ɪ'slɑ:mɪk, ɪz'lɑ:mɪk/ *adj* • *Islamic* faith/law • the *Islamic* world

is•land /'aɪlənd/ *noun, pl* **-lands** [*count*]
1 : an area of land that is surrounded by water • He lives on an *island* in the Caribbean. • Long *Island* • the Greek *islands* — see color picture on page C7
2 : an area or object that is separated from other things: such as **a** : a raised area within a road, parking lot, or driveway that is used to separate or direct traffic — called also *traffic island* **b** *chiefly US* : a separate raised area with a flat surface on which food is prepared in a kitchen • a kitchen *island*

is•land•er /'aɪləndɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a person born or living on an island • Pacific *islanders*

isle /'ajəl/ *noun, pl* **isles** [*count*] *literary* : ISLAND 1 • a tropical *isle* — often used in proper nouns • the British *Isles* • the *Emerald Isle* [=Ireland]

is•let /'aɪlət/ *noun, pl* **-lets** [*count*] : a small island

ism /'ɪzəm/ *noun, pl* **isms** [*count*] : a belief, attitude, style, etc., that is referred to by a word that ends in the suffix *-ism* • Cubism, Impressionism, and other artistic *isms* • ageism, rac-

ism, sexism, and all the other familiar *isms*

-ism /ɪzəm/ *noun suffix*
1 a : the act, practice, or process of doing something — used to form nouns from verbs that end in *-ize* ▪ criti*cism* ▪ plagiar*ism* ▪ hypnot*ism* **b** : behavior like that of a specified kind of person or thing ▪ hero*ism* **c** : unfair treatment of a group of people who have a particular quality ▪ rac*ism* ▪ sex*ism*
2 : the state or fact of being a specified kind of person or thing ▪ skeptic*ism* ▪ fanatic*ism*
3 *medical* : abnormal state or condition ▪ alcohol*ism* ▪ dwarf*ism*
4 : teachings or beliefs ▪ Buddh*ism* ▪ Marx*ism* ▪ social*ism* ▪ stoic*ism* ▪ real*ism*
5 a : a word that is from a specified source ▪ a Latin*ism* [=a word or phrase that comes from a Latin word or phrase] **b** : a word that has a specified quality ▪ a colloquial*ism*

isn't /ˈɪzn̩t/ — used as a contraction of *is not* ▪ This *isn't* the way I expected it to be. ▪ She *isn't* coming to dinner.

iso•late /ˈaɪsəˌleɪt/ *verb* **-lates**; **-lat•ed**; **-lat•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to put or keep (someone or something) in a place or situation that is separate from others ▪ These policies will only serve to *isolate* the country politically and economically. ▪ Certain patients must be *isolated* in a separate ward. ▪ When he wants to work, he *isolates* himself in his office and won't talk to anyone. — often + *from* ▪ Certain patients must be *isolated from* the others in a separate ward.
2 a : to find and deal with (something, such as a problem) by removing other possibilities ▪ It may take several days to *isolate* the problem. [=to find out exactly what the problem is] **b** *technical* : to separate (something, such as a chemical) from another substance : to get (something) or an amount of (something) that is not mixed with or attached to anything else ▪ Scientists have *isolated* the gene/virus that causes the disease. — often + *from* ▪ The chemical/compound was originally *isolated from* a kind of seaweed.

iso•lat•ed *adj*
1 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : separate from others ▪ The town remains a very *isolated* community. ▪ The camp is located in an *isolated* area. ▪ *isolated* places/populations ▪ She felt *isolated* [=*alone*] in her new school. [=she felt unhappy because of being separated from people she knew]
2 : happening just once ▪ The arrest was an *isolated* incident in his youth. ▪ an *isolated* instance/case
3 : happening in different places and at different times ▪ There have been reports of *isolated* [=*sporadic*] outbreaks of the disease. ▪ a few *isolated* cases of vandalism

iso•la•tion /ˌaɪsəˈleɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : the state of being in a place or situation that is separate from others : the condition of being isolated ▪ the *isolation* of the mountain community ▪ political and economic *isolation* ▪ a feeling of *isolation* [=*loneliness*]
2 : the act of separating something from other things : the act of isolating something ▪ *isolation* of the gene/virus
in isolation : apart from others ▪ The researchers work *in isolation*. ▪ Their culture developed *in isolation* [=*separately*] from the rest of the world.

iso•la•tion•ism /ˌaɪsəˈleɪʃəˌnɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the belief that a country should not be involved with other countries : a policy of not making agreements or working with other countries
– **iso•la•tion•ist** /ˌaɪsəˈleɪʃənɪst/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ *isolationist* policies – **isolationist** *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*]

iso•met•rics /ˌaɪsəˈmɛtrɪks/ *noun* [*plural*] : exercises in which muscles are made stronger by pushing against other muscles or against something that does not move
– **iso•met•ric** /ˌaɪsəˈmɛtrɪk/ *adj* ▪ an *isometric* exercise

isos•ce•les triangle /aɪˈsɑːsəˌliːz-/ *noun, pl* ~ **-angles** [*count*] *mathematics* : a triangle in which two sides have the same length

iso•tope /ˈaɪsəˌtoʊp/ *noun, pl* **-topes** [*count*] *chemistry* : any one of various forms in which the atoms of a chemical element can occur ▪ carbon *isotopes* ▪ radioactive *isotopes*

ISP /ˌaɪˌɛsˈpiː/ *noun, pl* **ISPs** [*count*] *computers* : a company which provides the services that make it possible for people using computers to connect to the Internet and to send and receive e-mail ✧ *ISP* is an abbreviation of "Internet service provider."

Is•rae•li /ɪzˈreɪli/ *noun, pl* **-lis** [*count*] : a person born, raised, or living in modern Israel
– **Israeli** *adj* ▪ *Israeli* politicians ▪ a team of *Israeli* scientists

Is•ra•el•ite /ˈɪzriːjəˌlaɪt, ˈɪzrəˌlaɪt/ *noun, pl* **-ites** [*count*] : a person who was born in or who lived in the ancient kingdom of Israel

is•su•ance /ˈɪʃəwəns/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : the official act of making something available or of giving something to people to be used : the act of officially issuing something ▪ the *issuance* of stock ▪ a visa *issuance* ▪ the *issuance* of a search warrant

[1]is•sue /ˈɪˌʃuː/ *noun, pl* **-sues**
1 [*count*] : something that people are talking about, thinking about, etc. : an important subject or topic ▪ She is concerned with a variety of social/moral/economic *issues*. ▪ Water purity is a public health *issue*. ▪ The President's speech addressed a number of important *issues*. ▪ campaign *issues* like education and defense ▪ The company insists that race was not an *issue* in its decision. [=that its decision was not related to race in any way] ▪ The *issue* is poverty, not race: to talk about race is simply to confuse the *issue*. ▪ The case involves some complicated legal *issues*. ▪ He should stop dodging/avoiding the *issue* and make a decision now.
2 [*count*] : the version of a newspaper, magazine, etc., that is published at a particular time ▪ There's an interesting article on page 12 of this *issue*. ▪ the most recent *issue* of the magazine/journal ▪ the current/latest *issue* ▪ The library has a large collection of ***back issues*** [=magazines, newspapers, etc., published before the current issue]
3 [*singular*] : the act of officially making something available or giving something to people to be used : the act of issuing something ▪ Several senators are calling for the *issue* [=*issuance*] of new guidelines. ▪ a government-*issue* gun [=a gun that the government has officially given to someone] — see also STANDARD-ISSUE
4 *issues* [*plural*] : problems or concerns ▪ the health *issues* associated with aging
at issue : being discussed or considered ▪ *At issue* is the city's budget plan for next year. ▪ What is *at issue* is not the candidate's private life but her politics.
force the issue : to force someone to do something or to make a decision about something ▪ They would never have addressed the problem if that newspaper article hadn't *forced the issue*. ▪ Neither side is willing to *force the issue*.
have issues *informal* **1** : to have problems that make you unhappy and difficult to deal with ▪ He seemed nice enough at first, but it turns out he *has* (a lot of) *issues*. ▪ She *has* serious anger *issues*. [=she often gets so angry that she is difficult to deal with] **2** : to have reasons for disliking someone or something : to disagree with or disapprove of someone or something — + *with* ▪ I *have* some *issues with* his behavior.
make an issue of : to argue about (something) or insist that (something) be treated as an important problem ▪ I knew they'd made a mistake, but I was too tired to *make an issue of* it. ▪ They kept *making an issue of* his smoking. [=they continued to criticize him because he smokes cigarettes]
take issue with : to disagree with (someone or something) ▪ She *took issue with* the conclusions reached by the study. ▪ I *take issue with* their whole approach to the problem.
without issue *law* : without having children ▪ He died *without issue*.

[2]issue *verb* **-sues**; **-sued**; **-su•ing**
1 [+ *obj*] **a** : to give (something) to someone in an official way ▪ The police have *issued* [=*handed out*] numerous tickets for speeding in recent days. : to give or supply (something) to (someone) ▪ The jail *issued* him an orange uniform. = (*Brit*) The jail *issued* him with an orange uniform. ▪ Each employee will be *issued* an identification card. **b** : to make (something) available to be sold or used ▪ The Post Office will *issue* a new first-class stamp. ▪ The company plans to raise money by *issuing* more stock. ▪ The bank will be *issuing* a new credit card. ▪ the bank's newly *issued* credit card
2 [+ *obj*] : to announce (something) in a public and official way ▪ The king *issued* a decree forbidding all protests. ▪ A severe storm warning has been *issued*. ▪ The police have *issued* a warrant for her arrest. ▪ *issue* a press release
3 [*no obj*] *formal* : to go, come, or flow out *from* some source ▪ A steady flow of lava *issued from* a crack in the rock.
– **is•su•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ credit card *issuers* = *issuers* of credit cards

[1]-ist /ɪst/ *noun suffix*
1 a : a person who does a specified action or activity ▪ typ*ist* **b** : a person who makes or produces something specified ▪ novel*ist* **c** : a person who plays a specified musical instrument ▪ pian*ist* ▪ violin*ist* **d** : a person who operates a specified machine or vehicle ▪ machin*ist* ▪ bicycl*ist*

2 : a person who has a specified job or skill ▪ geologist ▪ hairstylist ▪ dental hygienist ▪ artist
3 : a person who has particular beliefs — used to form nouns from related nouns that end in *-ism* ▪ socialist ▪ purist ▪ populist ▪ Methodist ▪ Buddhist ▪ Darwinist
4 : a person who has a particular quality — used to form nouns from related nouns that end in *-ism* ▪ pessimist ▪ optimist ▪ idealist

[2]-ist *adj suffix* : of, relating to, or characterized by a specified quality — used to form adjectives from related nouns that end in *-ism* ▪ an elitist attitude

isth•mus /ˈɪsməs/ *noun, pl* **-mus•es** [*count*] : a narrow area of land that connects two larger land areas — often used in names ▪ the *Isthmus* of Panama

-is•tic /ɪstɪk/ *also* **-is•ti•cal** /ɪstɪkəl/ *adj suffix* : of, relating to, or characterized by a (specified) quality — used to form adjectives from related nouns that end in *-ism* ▪ altruistic ▪ realistic ▪ egotistical

[1]it /ˈɪt, ət/ *pronoun*
1 : that one just mentioned — used to refer to an object or substance ▪ I caught the ball and threw *it* back. ▪ He saw the car and immediately wanted to buy *it*. ▪ She tasted the powder and *it* was sweet. — used to refer to a living thing whose sex is unknown or is being ignored ▪ I don't know who *it* is. ▪ "Who is *it*?" "*It's* only me." ▪ There is a rosebush near the fence, and *it* is now blooming. ▪ A fly landed on the table and I swatted *it*. ▪ He heard the baby crying and brought *it* some milk. — used to refer to an idea, quality, emotion, etc. ▪ Beauty is everywhere, and *it* is a source of great joy.
2 — used as the subject of a verb that describes a condition or occurrence ▪ *It* is cold/hot/raining/snowing outside. ▪ *It* is (getting) late/dark. ▪ *It* will soon be summer. ▪ What time is *it*? ▪ *It* is ten (minutes) after four (o'clock). ▪ *It* hurts when I sneeze. ▪ *It* is almost summer. ▪ *It* is only a short walk to the beach from here.
3 — used in the place of a noun, phrase, or clause that usually comes later ▪ *It* hurts me to sneeze. [=to sneeze hurts me] ▪ *It* is not necessary (for you) to repeat the whole thing. ▪ *It* makes me happy just to think about her. ▪ *It* is wonderful being back here again! ▪ *It* is a long way to the next town. ▪ *It* is said/believed that he died of a broken heart. ▪ They made *it* clear that they needed our help. ▪ I take *it* that there was some problem. ▪ *It* is me you are looking for. = (*formal*) *It* is I you are looking for. ▪ *It* was here that I lost my way. ▪ *It* was in this city that the treaty was signed.
4 — used to refer to something that has been done or is being done or is going to be done ▪ We're going to have to do *it* again. ▪ Quit *it*! [=stop doing what you are doing] ▪ You've been arguing all afternoon. Now cut *it* out! [=stop arguing] ▪ Please do *it* right away. ▪ Okay, go to *it*! [=do the thing you are going to do]
5 — used as a direct object with little or no meaning ▪ We hoofed *it* all the way back to camp. [=we walked all the way back to camp] ▪ We decided to rough *it* on vacation this year. [=to have our vacation somewhere where we would not have our normal comforts] ▪ living *it* up [=doing exciting and enjoyable things; spending money freely while enjoying life] ▪ She offered to come with me, but I decided to go *it* alone. [=to go by myself; to go alone]
6 : the general situation : things in general ▪ How's *it* going? ▪ *It* hasn't been the same since you left.
7 : something previously discussed or known ▪ When the bell rings, *it* means that class is over.
ask for it see ASK
do it see [1]DO
in for it see [1]FOR
nothing to it see [1]NOTHING
out of it see [1]OUT
that is it or that's it *informal* **1** — used to say that something is finished or completed ▪ Okay, *that's it*. You can go now. **2** — used to say that something is all that is needed or wanted ▪ I came here to visit the museum and *that's it*. [=that is all I wanted to do here] **3** — used to say that something is correct ▪ "I can't remember his name." "I think it was Brian Johnson." "Yes, *that's it*." **4** — used in an angry or annoyed way to say that you will not accept any more of something ▪ *That's it*! I'm leaving!
this is it *informal* — used to say that this is the most important or final point ▪ Well, *this is it*—the day we've been waiting for.

[2]it /ˈɪt/ *noun, pl* **its** [*count*] : the player in some children's games (such as hide-and-seek and tag) who performs the main action of the game (such as finding or catching other players) ▪ You're *it*!

ital *abbr* italic, italicized

Ital *abbr* Italian

Ital•ian /ɪˈtæljən/ *noun, pl* **-ians**
1 [*count*] **a** : a person born, raised, or living in Italy **b** : a person whose family is from Italy
2 [*noncount*] : the language of the Italians
– **Italian** *adj* ▪ *Italian* food/politics

Ital•ian•ate /ɪˈtæljənət/ *adj* : showing the influence of the art or culture of Italy ▪ *Italianate* architecture ▪ a beautiful *Italianate* painting/villa

Italian dressing *noun* [*noncount*] *US* : a salad dressing that is made of oil, vinegar, and herbs

[1]ital•ic /ɪˈtælɪk/ *adj*
1 : having letters, numbers, etc., that slant upward to the right ▪ *These words are italic*. ▪ *italic* type — abbr. *ital*
2 ***Italic*** : of or relating to ancient Italy, the people who lived there, or the languages spoken there ▪ *Italic* languages/dialects

[2]italic *noun, pl* **-ics** : letters, numbers, etc., that slant upward to the right : italic type [*noncount*] *These words are printed in italic*. [*plural*] The type should be set in *italics*. ▪ *These words are printed in italics*. — abbr. *ital*; see picture at FONT

ital•i•cize *also Brit* **ital•i•cise** /ɪˈtælə,saɪz/ *verb* **-ciz•es**; **-cized**; **-ciz•ing** [+ *obj*] : to put letters, numbers, etc., in italics : to print (text) in italics ▪ *italicize* a word ▪ *italicized* text

[1]itch /ˈɪʧ/ *verb* **itch•es**; **itched**; **itch•ing** [*no obj*]
1 : to have or produce an unpleasant feeling on your skin or inside your mouth, nose, etc. that makes you want to scratch ▪ My back really *itches*. ▪ His eyes began to burn and *itch* because of his allergies. ▪ My nose *itches*. [=I have an itchy nose] ▪ This sweater makes me *itch*. ▪ Most rashes *itch*.
2 *informal* : to have a strong desire *to do* something or *for* something — always used as *(be) itching* ▪ I'*m itching to get started* in my garden again. [=I'm very eager to begin working in my garden again] ▪ She *was itching for* a fight. ▪ He seemed to *be itching for* an excuse to say something rude.
– **itching** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ Rashes can cause intense *itching*. ▪ Symptoms include minor *itching* and redness. ▪ This lotion should soothe/stop/relieve the *itching*. [=*itchiness*]

[2]itch *noun, pl* **itch•es** [*count*]
1 : an uncomfortable or unpleasant feeling on your skin or inside your mouth, nose, etc., that makes you want to scratch ▪ I had a slight *itch* on my back. ▪ Scratching only makes the *itch* worse.
2 *somewhat informal* : a constant and strong desire *for* something or *to do* something ▪ She's always had an *itch for* adventure. ▪ He has an *itch to travel*.
scratch the/an itch *chiefly US, informal* : to satisfy a desire or need for something ▪ Sign up for a tour of Asia and *scratch the itch* to travel.

itchy /ˈɪʧi/ *adj* **itch•i•er**; **-est**
1 a : feeling or having an itch ▪ My eyes are/feel *itchy*. ▪ *itchy* skin ▪ an *itchy* back **b** : causing an itch ▪ an *itchy* rash ▪ This sweater is *itchy*.
2 *informal* : feeling a strong desire to do something, to change something, etc. ▪ Voters are *itchy* for change. ▪ He was *itchy* to get going. ✧ If you have ***itchy feet***, you have a strong desire to leave a place, job, etc., and go somewhere else. ▪ She's had the same job for five years, and she's starting to get *itchy feet*. ✧ If you have an ***itchy finger*** or ***itchy fingers***, you have a strong desire to do or get something, especially something that other people think is wrong or dangerous. ▪ a movie about a gunman who has an *itchy* (*trigger*) *finger* [=a gunman who wants to shoot his gun; a gunman who is eager or likely to shoot someone]
– **itch•i•ness** /ˈɪʧinəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ The chemical causes *itchiness* and inflammation if it gets on your skin.

it'd /ˈɪtəd/ — used as a contraction of *it would* and *it had* ▪ We knew *it'd* [=*it would*] be dark soon. ▪ *It'd* [=*it had*] been like that for a while.

-ite /aɪt/ *noun suffix*
1 : a person born, raised, or living in a specified area ▪ suburbanite ▪ New Jerseyite
2 : a follower or supporter of a specified person or group ▪ Reaganite

item /ˈaɪtəm/ *noun, pl* **items**
1 [*count*] : an individual thing : a separate part or thing ▪ There are several *items* for sale. ▪ an *item* [=*article*] of clothing ▪ an *item* [=*article, piece*] of furniture ▪ I need to buy a few household *items* like soap. ▪ He always orders the most ex-

pensive *item* on the menu. ▪ There are a lot of *items* on our agenda tonight, so let's start the meeting. — see also COLLECTOR'S ITEM, *hot item* at ¹HOT

2 [*count*] : a separate piece of news or information ▪ I saw an *item* in today's paper about the mayor's campaign plans.

3 [*singular*] *informal* : two people who are in a romantic or sexual relationship ▪ They were rumored to be an *item*. [=*a couple*]

item•ize *also Brit* **item•ise** /'aɪtəˌmaɪz/ *verb* **-iz•es**; **-ized**; **-iz•ing** [+ *obj*] : to create a detailed list of (things) ▪ You'll need to *itemize* [=*list*] all of your deductions/expenses. ▪ a list of *itemized* expenses

– **item•i•za•tion** *also Brit* **item•i•sa•tion** /ˌaɪtəməˈzeɪʃən, *Brit* ˌaɪtəˌmaɪˈzeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *itemization* of all your expenses

itin•er•ant /aɪˈtɪnərənt/ *adj, always used before a noun* : traveling from place to place : staying in a place for only a short amount of time ▪ an *itinerant* preacher/lecturer/performer

itin•er•ary /aɪˈtɪnəˌreri, *Brit* aɪˈtɪnərəri/ *noun, pl* **-ar•ies** [*count*] : the places you go to or plan to go to on a journey ▪ We planned a detailed *itinerary*. ▪ Our *itinerary* included stops at several famous cathedrals.; *also* : a document in which the places you will be going to are listed ▪ I'll mail you a copy of my *itinerary* so you'll know where to reach me.

-i•tis /aɪtəs/ *noun suffix, medical* : inflammation of something specified ▪ tonsill*itis* ▪ bronch*itis* ▪ laryng*itis* — sometimes used humorously to describe having too much of something ▪ Hollywood has a bad case of sequel*itis* this summer. [=too many movies being shown this summer are sequels]

it'll /'ɪtl/ — used as a contraction of *it will* ▪ *It'll* be good to see her again. ▪ *It'll* be dark soon.

its /ɪts, əts/ *adj, always used before a noun, possessive form of* IT : relating to or belonging to a certain thing, animal, etc. ▪ the dog in *its* kennel ▪ The landscape is beautiful in *its* own unique way. ▪ Each region has *its* own customs. : made or done by a certain thing, animal, etc. ▪ The company is hoping to increase *its* sales. — compare IT'S

it's /ɪts, əts/ — used as a contraction of *it is* and *it has* ▪ *It's* [=*it is*] going to rain. ▪ *It's* [=*it has*] been fun, but I must go now. ▪ *It's* [=*it is*] a long way to the bottom. — compare ITS

it•self /ɪtˈsɛlf/ *pronoun*

1 : that same one: **a** — used as the object of a verb or preposition to refer to something that has already been mentioned ▪ The cat washed *itself*. ▪ History keeps repeating *itself*. ▪ The problem should work *itself* out. ▪ The chain folds back on *itself*. ▪ The restaurant has built quite a reputation for *itself*. **b** — used for emphasis to refer to something that has already been mentioned ▪ I found the envelope, but the letter *itself* was missing. ▪ That *itself* was enough of an excuse. ▪ The city *itself* is fairly small.

2 — used after a noun to say that someone or something has a lot of a particular quality ▪ She was/seemed kindness *itself*. [=she was extremely kind] ▪ Your cake is perfection *itself*. [=your cake is perfect]

by itself **1** : on its own : without being directly controlled by a person ▪ The computer shuts off *by itself* if you don't use it. ▪ The sprinkler will turn on *by itself*. [=*automatically*]

2 : with nothing nearby : ALONE ▪ The house stood *by itself* at the end of the street.

in itself : in its own nature : when considered as something separate from other things ▪ The idea was not *in itself* bad. ▪ This is not *in itself* a new idea. : without anything else added ▪ That's a story *in itself*. — see also *an end in itself* at ¹END

it•sy–bit•sy /ˈɪtsiˈbɪtsi/ *or* **it•ty–bit•ty** /ˈɪtiˈbɪti/ *adj, informal* : extremely small : TINY ▪ a baby taking *itsy-bitsy* steps ▪ an *itsy-bitsy* piece of cake

-ity /əti/ *noun suffix* : quality, state, or degree ▪ availabil*ity* ▪ stabil*ity* ▪ absurd*ity* ▪ complex*ity* ▪ salin*ity*

IUD /ˌaɪˌjuːˈdiː/ *noun, pl* **IUDs** [*count*] *medical* : INTRAUTERINE DEVICE

¹IV /ˌaɪˈviː/ *noun, pl* **IVs** [*count*] *US, medical* : a device that is used to allow a fluid (such as blood or a liquid medication) to flow directly into a patient's veins ▪ The nurse started an *IV*. ▪ The patient was hooked up to an *IV*. — see picture at HOSPITAL ✧ *IV* is an abbreviation of *intravenous*.

²IV *adj, always used before a noun, US* : INTRAVENOUS ▪ *IV* drug users [=people who inject themselves with illegal drugs]

-ive /ɪv/ *adj suffix* : doing or tending to do something specified ▪ exhaust*ive* ▪ explos*ive*

I've /ˈaɪv, əv/ — used as a contraction of *I have* ▪ The food was good, but *I've* had better. ▪ It was the best movie *I've* ever seen. ▪ *I've* got lots of work to do today. = (*chiefly Brit*) *I've* lots of work to do today.

ivied /ˈaɪvid/ *adj* : covered with ivy ▪ the college's *ivied* walls

ivo•ry /ˈaɪvəri/ *noun, pl* **-ries**

1 [*noncount*] : a hard white substance that forms the tusks of elephants and other animals ▪ a carved piece of *ivory*

2 [*noncount*] : a slightly yellowish white color — see color picture on page C2

3 [*count*] *informal* : a piano key — usually plural ✧ To ***tickle the ivories*** is to play the piano.

ivory tower *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] *disapproving* : a place or situation in which people make and discuss theories about problems (such as poverty and racism) without having any experience with those problems ▪ The book was written by some college professor who's spent her entire professional life in an *ivory tower*. — often used before another noun ▪ an *ivory-tower* intellectual

ivy /ˈaɪvi/ *noun, pl* **ivies** [*count, noncount*] : a plant that has long stems and that often grows on the outsides of buildings ▪ walls covered with *ivy* = *ivy*-covered walls — called also *English ivy*; see color picture on page C6; see also POISON IVY

Ivy League *noun* [*singular*] : a group of eight colleges and universities in the eastern U.S. that have been respected for providing an excellent education for a long time — often used before another noun ▪ an *Ivy League* diploma/degree ▪ an *Ivy League* university/college ✧ The Ivy League consists of Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Columbia, Brown, and Cornell universities, the University of Pennsylvania, and Dartmouth College.

-ize *also Brit* **-ise** /aɪz/ *verb suffix*

1 a : to cause to become or become like something specified ▪ Americ*anize* : to become or become like (something specified) ▪ crystall*ize* ▪ union*ize* **b** : to treat like something specified ▪ idol*ize* ▪ lion*ize* ▪ commercial*ize*

2 : to talk or write about someone or something in a specified way ▪ satir*ize* ▪ romanticize

3 : to make or suggest something specified ▪ hypothes*ize* ▪ theor*ize* ▪ philosoph*ize*

4 : to place someone in something specified ▪ hospital*ize* ▪ institutional*ize*

J

j *or* **J** /ˈʤeɪ/ *noun, pl* **j's** *or* **js** *or* **J's** *or* **Js** : the 10th letter of the English alphabet [*count*] a word that begins with a *j* [*noncount*] a word that begins with *j*

¹jab /ˈʤæb/ *verb* **jabs**; **jabbed**; **jab•bing**

1 : to push something sharp or hard quickly or suddenly into or toward someone or something [+ *obj*] The nurse *jabbed* the needle into his arm. = The nurse *jabbed* his arm with a needle. ▪ She *jabbed* her elbow into my ribs. = She *jabbed* me in the ribs with her elbow. [*no obj*] He *jabbed* at the other player with his hockey stick.

2 : to be pushed quickly and suddenly into someone or a part of someone's body [+ *obj*] The needle *jabbed* his arm. [*no obj*] The needle *jabbed* into his arm.

²jab *noun, pl* **jabs** [*count*]

1 : a quick or sudden hit with something sharp or hard ▪ She gave him a *jab* in the ribs. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ In his speech, he ***took a jab at*** [=*criticized*] the senator.

2 *boxing* : a short, straight punch ▪ He threw a right/left *jab* to his opponent's body. — compare HOOK, UPPERCUT

3 *Brit, informal* : an injection of something (such as medi-

cine) into your body with a needle ▪ a flu *jab* [=(*chiefly US*) *shot*]

jab•ber /'ʤæbɚ/ *verb* **-bers**; **-bered**; **-ber•ing** *informal* : to talk in a fast, unclear, or foolish way [*no obj*] They *jabbered* away for hours. [+ *obj*] She rushed into the room *jabbering* something about a dog.

– **jabber** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ listening to their silly *jabber*

[1]jack /'ʤæk/ *noun, pl* **jacks**

1 [*count*] : a device used for lifting something heavy (such as a car)

2 [*count*] : a playing card that has a picture of a soldier or servant and that is worth more than a ten and less than a queen ▪ the *jack* of hearts/spades/clubs/diamonds — see picture at PLAYING CARD

3 [*count*] : a small opening where something connects with a wire to something else ▪ a telephone/stereo *jack*

4 a [*count*] : a small usually metal object that has six points and that is used in the game of jacks **b** ***jacks*** [*plural*] : a child's game in which jacks are thrown and picked up while bouncing and catching a small ball ▪ children playing *jacks*

5 [*noncount*] *US slang* : anything at all — used in negative statements ▪ You don't know *jack*. = (*offensive*) You don't know ***jack shit***.

[2]jack *verb* **jacks**; **jacked**; **jack•ing**

jack in [*phrasal verb*] ***jack in (something) or jack (something) in*** *Brit, informal* : to stop doing (something) ▪ He was building a new shed but *jacked* it *in*. ▪ He *jacked in* [=*quit, gave up*] his job and became a hippie.

jack off [*phrasal verb*] *US, informal + impolite, of a man* : MASTURBATE

jack up [*phrasal verb*] ***jack up (something) or jack (something) up*** **1** : to lift (something, such as a car) with a jack ▪ He *jacked up* the car and changed the tire. **2** *informal* : to increase (something, such as a price) by a large amount ▪ The restaurant has *jacked up* its prices in recent months.

jack•al /'ʤækəl/ *noun, pl* **-als** [*count*] : a wild dog found in Africa and Asia



jackal

jack•ass /'ʤæk,æs/ *noun, pl* **-ass•es** [*count*]

1 : a male donkey

2 *chiefly US, informal + impolite* : a stupid person : ASS ▪ Some *jackass* spilled his drink on my shoes.

jack•boot /'ʤæk,bu:t/ *noun, pl* **-boots** [*count*] : a heavy military boot that reaches above the knee — sometimes used figuratively ▪ They suffered under the fascist *jackboot*. [=they suffered under fascist rule]

– **jack•boot•ed** /'ʤæk,bu:təd/ *adj* ▪ *jackbooted* thugs

jack•et /'ʤækət/ *noun, pl* **-ets** [*count*]

1 : a piece of clothing that is worn on your upper body over another piece of clothing (such as a shirt) : a usually short and light coat ▪ a suit with a double-breasted *jacket* ▪ a warm *jacket* — see color picture on page C15; see also DINNER JACKET, FLAK JACKET, LIFE JACKET, SPORTS JACKET, STRAITJACKET

2 : an outer covering: such as **a** : a paper cover that protects a book and that can be removed : DUST JACKET **b** *chiefly US* : a paper, cardboard, or plastic envelope for holding a record, CD, or DVD -- called also *sleeve*

– see also YELLOW JACKET

jacket potato *noun, pl* ~ **-toes** [*count*] *Brit* : a potato baked with its skin left on

Jack Frost *noun* — used as a way to refer to frost or cold weather ▪ *Jack Frost* may arrive early this year.

jack•ham•mer /'ʤæk,hæmɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a heavy tool used to break hard substances (such as concrete) into pieces by a repeated pounding action — called also *pneumatic drill*

jack–in–the–box /'ʤækənðə,bɑ:ks/ *noun, pl* **jack–in–the–box•es** *or* **jacks–in–the–box** [*count*] : a toy that is a small box containing a clown or other figure which jumps up when the box is opened

[1]jack•knife /'ʤæk,naɪf/ *noun, pl* **-knives** [*count*]

1 : a small knife that has a folding blade : POCKETKNIFE

2 : a dive in which you bend from the waist and touch your ankles and then straighten out

[2]jackknife *verb* **-knifes**; **-knifed**; **-knif•ing** [*no obj*] : to bend in the middle like a folding jackknife; *especially, of a large truck* : to have the back part slide out of control toward the front part ▪ The truck *jackknifed* on the icy road.

jack–of–all–trades /,ʤækəv,ɑ:l'treɪdz/ *noun, pl* **jacks–of–all–trades** [*count*] : a person who has many skills : a person who can do many different jobs ✧ If you are a ***jack-of-all-trades, master of none***, you can do many things but are not an expert in any of them.

jack–o'–lan•tern /'ʤækə,læntɚn/ *noun, pl* **-terns** [*count*] : a pumpkin that has had its insides removed and a face cut into it for Halloween ✧ You put a candle in a jack-o'-lantern so that light shines out through its eyes, nose, and mouth.

jack•pot /'ʤæk,pɑ:t/ *noun, pl* **-pots** [*count*] : a usually large amount of money won in a game of chance ▪ The lottery *jackpot* is up to one million dollars.

hit the jackpot **1** : to win all the money that can be won in a game of chance ▪ He *hit the jackpot* on the slot machine. **2** : to have unexpected success or good luck ▪ He really *hit the jackpot* with his new restaurant. [=he became very successful with his new restaurant] ▪ They *hit the jackpot* when they hired her. [=she is a very valuable employee]

jack•rab•bit /'ʤæk,ræbət/ *noun, pl* **-bits** [*count*] : a North American animal that resembles a large rabbit and that is very fast

Jac•o•be•an /,ʤækə'bi:jən/ *adj* : of or relating to James I of England or the time (1603–25) when he was king ▪ *Jacobean* drama ▪ a *Jacobean* mansion

Ja•cuz•zi /ʤə'ku:zi/ *trademark* — used for a bathtub in which a pump causes water and air bubbles to move around your body

jade /'ʤeɪd/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : a usually green stone that is used for jewelry — see color picture on page C11

2 : a light bluish-green color — called also *jade green*; see color picture on page C2

jad•ed /'ʤeɪdəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : feeling or showing a lack of interest and excitement caused by having done or experienced too much of something ▪ He became *jaded* from years of work as a police officer. ▪ a public *jaded* by political scandals ▪ a *jaded* attitude

jag /'ʤæg/ *noun, pl* **jags** [*count*] *chiefly US, informal* : a short period of time when you do something in an uncontrolled way ▪ a crying *jag*

jag•ged /'ʤægəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having a sharp, uneven edge or surface ▪ a *jagged* mountain peak ▪ *jagged* pieces of broken glass

jag•uar /'ʤæ,gwɑɚ, *Brit* 'ʤægjəwə/ *noun, pl* **-uars** [*count*] : a large, brown, wild cat with black spots that lives in Central and South America — see picture at CAT

[1]jail *also Brit* **gaol** /'ʤeɪl/ *noun, pl* **jails** : a place where people are kept when they have been arrested and are being punished for a crime [*count*] He was locked up in the county *jail*. [*noncount*] He was arrested and ***sent/sentenced to jail***. ▪ He ***went to jail*** for his crimes. ▪ He just got ***out of jail*** a few weeks ago. ▪ He was kept ***in jail*** overnight.

> ***synonyms*** JAIL, PRISON, and PENITENTIARY all refer to places where criminals are kept. In U.S. English, *jail* usually refers to a small local place for holding criminals. ▪ He was arrested for drunkenness and spent a night in the city *jail*. *Prison* refers to a much larger building for more serious criminals, such as murderers. ▪ He was sentenced to 40 years in a state/federal *prison*. *Penitentiary* always refers to a large state or federal prison. ▪ He is serving a life sentence at a federal *penitentiary*. In British English, there is no clear difference between *jail* and *prison*, and the word *penitentiary* is not now used.

[2]jail *also Brit* **gaol** *verb* **jails**; **jailed**; **jail•ing** [+ *obj*] : to put (a person) in jail — usually used as *(be) jailed* ▪ He *was jailed* for assaulting a police officer.

jail•bird *also Brit* **gaol•bird** /'ʤeɪl,bɚd/ *noun, pl* **-birds** [*count*] *informal + old-fashioned* : a person who has often been in jail or prison

jail•break *also Brit* **gaol•break** /'ʤeɪl,breɪk/ *noun, pl* **-breaks** [*count*] : an escape from jail or prison

jail•er *also* **jail•or** *or Brit* **gaol•er** /'ʤeɪlɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** *also* **-ors** [*count*] *somewhat old-fashioned* : a person who is in charge of a jail or who guards the prisoners in a jail

jail•house /'ʤeɪl,haʊs/ *noun, pl* **-hous•es** [*count*] *US* : [1]JAIL — usually used before another noun ▪ a *jailhouse* informant [=an informant who is in jail]

ja•la•pe•ño *also* **ja•la•pe•no** /,hɑ:lə'peɪnjoʊ/ *noun, pl* **-ños** *also* **-nos** [*count*] : a small green pepper that is very hot and

is used especially in Mexican cooking — called also *jalapeño pepper, jalapeno pepper*

ja•lopy /ʤəˈlɑːpi/ *noun, pl* **-lop•ies** [*count*] *informal* : an old car that is in poor condition ▪ He fixed up an old *jalopy*.

[1]jam /ˈʤæm/ *verb* **jams; jammed; jam•ming**

1 a : to fill (a place) completely [+ *obj*] Thousands of people *jammed* the hall. = The hall was *jammed* [=*jam-packed, packed*] with thousands of people. [*no obj*] Thousands of people *jammed* into the hall. **b** [+ *obj*] : to fill (something, such as a door or a road) so that movement is slow or stopped ▪ People were *jamming* the exits after the concert. ▪ All the roads and bridges were *jammed* (with traffic). — sometimes used figuratively ▪ All the telephone lines were *jammed* with calls from angry customers.

2 a [+ *obj*] : to press or push (an object) into a tight place ▪ He *jammed* the book back into the bookcase. ▪ A piece of paper got/was *jammed* [=*stuck*] in the copy machine. **b** : to push (a part of your body, a lever, etc.) suddenly and forcefully [+ *obj*] She *jammed* her foot down hard on the brakes. [*no obj*] She *jammed on the brakes*. **c** [+ *obj*] : to cause (a part of your body) to be painfully crushed, squeezed, etc. ▪ I *jammed* my finger in the car door. = My finger got *jammed* in the car door. = I got my finger *jammed* in the car door. ▪ I *jammed* [=*stubbed*] my toe on the chair's leg.

3 a [*no obj*] : to stop working properly because something inside prevents movement ▪ The copy machine *jammed* (up) again. ▪ The lock/gun *jammed*. **b** [+ *obj*] : to cause (something) to stop working properly by preventing its parts from moving ▪ A piece of paper *jammed* the copy machine.

4 [+ *obj*] : to make (a radio signal or broadcast) impossible to understand by sending out signals or messages that weaken or block it ▪ *jam* a radio broadcast

5 [*no obj*] : to play music informally together without preparation ▪ We like to get together and *jam* (with each other).

6 [+ *obj*] *baseball* : to throw a pitch that is close to a batter and that the batter is unable to hit well ▪ The pitcher *jammed* him with an inside fastball.

[2]jam *noun, pl* **jams** [*count*]

1 : a situation in which a machine does not work properly because something inside prevents its parts from moving ▪ There's a paper *jam* in the printer.

2 : a situation in which something (such as a road) is so filled that movement is stopped or slowed ▪ I got stuck in a *traffic jam* on the way home from work. — see also LOGJAM

3 *informal* : a difficult situation ▪ He got in/into a real *jam* with his girlfriend. ▪ She asked her parents for money to help her get out of a *jam*.

– compare [3]JAM

[3]jam *noun, pl* **jams** [*count, noncount*] : a sweet food made of fruit and sugar thickened by boiling ▪ a jar of raspberry *jam*

money for jam see MONEY

– compare [2]JAM

jamb /ˈʤæm/ *noun, pl* **jambs** [*count*] : a board that forms the side of a door or window — see also DOORJAMB

jam•ba•laya /ˌʤʌmbəˈlajə, *Brit* ˌʤæmbəˈlajə/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a spicy dish of rice cooked usually with ham, sausage, chicken, shrimp, or oysters

jam•bo•ree /ˌʤæmbəˈriː/ *noun, pl* **-rees** [*count*]

1 : a large party or celebration with music and entertainment ▪ a country music *jamboree*

2 : a large gathering of Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts

jam•mies /ˈʤæmiz/ *noun* [*plural*] *US, informal* : PAJAMAS ✧ *Jammies* is a word used mainly by children and when speaking to children.

jam•my /ˈʤæmi/ *adj* **jam•mi•er; -est**

1 : resembling or suggesting jam ▪ *jammy* flavors

2 *Brit, informal* : having good luck : LUCKY ▪ He's a *jammy* bastard. [=lucky guy]

jam–packed /ˈʤæmˈpækt/ *adj* : filled completely ▪ The theater was *jam-packed* (with people) for the performance.

jam session *noun, pl* ~ **-sions** [*count*] : a gathering or performance in which musicians play together informally without any preparation : a session in which musicians jam with each other

Jan. *abbr* January

Jane Doe /ˈʤeɪnˈdoʊ/ *noun, pl* ~ **Does** [*count*] *US, law* — used as a name for a woman whose true name is not known or is being kept secret; compare JOHN DOE

jan•gle /ˈʤæŋgəl/ *verb* **jan•gles; jan•gled; jan•gling**

1 [*no obj*] : to make a harsh ringing sound ▪ Coins *jangled* out of the machine.

2 [+ *obj*] : to cause (something) to make a harsh ringing sound ▪ He *jangled* his keys loudly outside the door.

jangle nerves ✧ If something *jangles your nerves*, it makes you feel very nervous and tense. ▪ The pressure of performing *jangled her nerves*. ▪ He took a deep breath to try to calm his *jangled nerves*.

– **jangle** *noun, pl* **jangles** [*count*] — usually singular ▪ the *jangle* of loose coins

jan•i•tor /ˈʤænətɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a person who cleans a building and makes minor repairs — called also (*Brit*) *caretaker*

– **jan•i•to•ri•al** /ˌʤænəˈtorijəl/ *adj*

Jan•u•ary /ˈʤænjəˌweri/ *noun, pl* **-ar•ies** : the first month of the year [*noncount*] in (early/middle/mid-/late) *January* ▪ early/late in *January* ▪ They arrived on *January* the fourth. = (*US*) They arrived on *January* fourth. = They arrived on the fourth of *January*. [*count*] Sales are up (for) this *January* in comparison with the previous two *Januaries*. — abbr. *Jan.*

Jap /ˈʤæp/ *noun, pl* **Japs** [*count*] *informal* + *offensive* : a Japanese person ✧ The word *Jap* is very offensive and should be avoided.

[1]Jap•a•nese /ˌʤæpəˈniːz/ *noun*

1 ***the Japanese*** : the people of Japan : Japanese people ▪ the customs of *the Japanese*

2 [*noncount*] : the language of the Japanese ▪ He is learning to speak *Japanese*.

[2]Japanese *adj* : of or relating to Japan, its people, or their language ▪ *Japanese* history/food ▪ She is *Japanese*. ▪ The custom is *Japanese*.

Japanese beetle *noun, pl* ~ **beetles** [*count*] : a small green and brown beetle that is originally from Asia and that causes damage to plants in the U.S. — see color picture on page C10

[1]jar /ˈʤɑɚ/ *noun, pl* **jars** [*count*]

1 a : a glass container that has a wide opening and usually a lid ▪ a pickle *jar* **b** : a clay container that has a wide opening ▪ a pottery *jar*

2 : the amount of something inside a jar ▪ We ate an entire *jar* of pickles.



jar

[2]jar *verb* **jars; jarred; jar•ring**

1 : to have a harsh or unpleasant effect on someone or something [*no obj*] — usually + *on* ▪ The loud music *jarred on* my ears. [+ *obj*] The attack *jarred* [=*shook, rattled*] her sense of security. ▪ The loss *jarred* his confidence in the team.

2 : to hit or shake (something) forcefully [+ *obj*] The earthquake *jarred* the tiles loose. ▪ He *jarred* [=*knocked*] the ball from his opponent's hands. [*no obj*] The tiles *jarred* loose in the earthquake.

3 [+ *obj*] : to make (someone) feel uneasy ▪ Visitors are often *jarred* [=*unsettled*] by the conditions at the hospital.

4 [*no obj*] *chiefly Brit* : to look bad or ugly together ▪ The two colors of the wallpaper *jar* [=*clash*] (with each other).

– **jarring** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ It was *jarring* to see how frail she was. ▪ a *jarring* contrast

jar•gon /ˈʤɑɚgən/ *noun* [*noncount*] *usually disapproving* : the language used for a particular activity or by a particular group of people ▪ legal/sports *jargon* ▪ medical *jargon* that the layman cannot understand ▪ an academic essay filled with *jargon*

jar•head /ˈʤɑɚˌhɛd/ *noun, pl* **-heads** [*count*] *US slang* : a member of the United States Marine Corps

jas•mine /ˈʤæzmən/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a plant that has flowers with a very pleasant and sweet smell

jaun•dice /ˈʤɑːndəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : a disease that causes a person's skin to turn yellow

jaun•diced /ˈʤɑːndəst/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 *medical* : having a disease that causes your skin to turn yellow : affected with jaundice ▪ a severely *jaundiced* patient

2 : feeling or showing dislike, distrust, or anger because of past experiences : likely to think that people, organizations, etc., are bad ▪ a *jaundiced* critic ▪ She has a very *jaundiced* view of politics and politicians.

jaunt /ˈʤɑːnt/ *noun, pl* **jaunts** [*count*] : a brief trip taken for pleasure ▪ a four-day *jaunt* to the mountains

jaun•ty /ˈʤɑːnti/ *adj* **jaun•ti•er; -est** [*also more* ~; *most* ~] : lively in manner or appearance ▪ *jaunty* tunes ▪ a *jaunty* greeting : having or suggesting a lively and confident quality ▪ He struck a *jaunty* pose for the camera. ▪ She was wearing a *jaunty* white cap.

– **jaunt•i•ly** /ˈʤɑːntəli/ *adv* ▪ She posed *jauntily* for the camera. – **jaunt•i•ness** /ˈʤɑːntinəs/ *noun* [*noncount*]

ja•va /ˈʤævə, ˈʤɑːvə/ *noun* [*noncount*] *US, informal* : COFFEE • a hot cup of *java*

jav•e•lin /ˈʤævələn/ *noun, pl* **-lins**
1 [*count*] : a long spear that people throw as far as they can as a sport
2 *the javelin* : an event in which people compete by trying to throw a javelin farther than everyone else • winner of *the javelin*

[1]jaw /ʤɑː/ *noun, pl* **jaws**
1 [*count*] **a** : either one of the two bones of the face where teeth grow • He broke his upper/lower *jaw*. • The crocodile tried to grab him in its *jaws*. [=*mouth*] • the *jaws* of a tiger/shark — often used figuratively • He barely escaped from *the jaws of death*. [=he barely escaped death] • The team was able to snatch victory from *the jaws of defeat* [=the team won] by scoring in the final seconds of the game. — see picture at FACE **b** : the lower part of a person's face — usually singular • I'd like to give that guy a punch in the *jaw*.
2 *jaws* [*plural*] : two parts of a machine or tool that open and close to hold or crush something • the *jaws* of a vise
jaw drops ✧ If your *jaw drops*, you open your mouth in a way that shows you are very surprised or shocked. • His *jaw dropped* when he heard who had won.

[2]jaw *verb* **jaws**; **jawed**; **jaw•ing** [*no obj*] *informal* : to talk in an angry way or for a very long time • The coach was *jawing* with/at the referee. • She was on the phone *jawing* with her sister all night.

jaw•bone /ˈʤɑːˌboʊn/ *noun, pl* **-bones** [*count*] : the bone that forms the lower jaw : MANDIBLE — see picture at HUMAN

jaw•break•er /ˈʤɑːˌbreɪkɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *US* : a round, hard candy

jaw•line /ˈʤɑːˌlaɪn/ *noun, pl* **-lines** [*count*] : the line of the face formed by the lower jaw : the bottom edge of a person's face • He has a strong *jawline*.

jay /ʤeɪ/ *noun, pl* **jays** [*count*] : a noisy bird that is often brightly colored — see also BLUE JAY

jay•bird /ˈʤeɪˌbɚd/ *noun, pl* **-birds** [*count*] *US, informal + old-fashioned* : JAY
naked as a jaybird : completely naked • He was standing at the window, *naked as a jaybird*.

jay•walk /ˈʤeɪˌwɑːk/ *verb* **-walks**; **-walked**; **-walk•ing** [*no obj*] : to cross a street carelessly or at an illegal or dangerous place • The police officer warned us not to *jaywalk*.
– **jay•walk•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] – **jaywalking** *noun* [*noncount*] • She was arrested for *jaywalking*.

[1]jazz /ʤæz/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : a type of American music with lively rhythms and melodies that are often made up by musicians as they play • He likes/plays *jazz*. • She was listening to (some) *jazz*. — often used before another noun • a *jazz* band/festival/musician
2 *informal* **a** : meaningless or foolish talk • What's all this *jazz* about you leaving? **b** : similar things : STUFF • She loves hiking, biking, *and all that jazz*.

[2]jazz *verb* **jazz•es**; **jazzed**; **jazz•ing**
jazz up [*phrasal verb*] ***jazz up (something) or jazz (something) up*** *informal* : to make (something) more interesting, exciting, or attractive • The company wants to *jazz up* its image. • She tried to *jazz* the room *up* with a new rug.

jazzed *adj, not used before a noun* [*more ~; most ~*] *US, informal* : very excited • He was really *jazzed* for the game. • She was *jazzed* (up) to be playing in the band.

jazzy /ˈʤæzi/ *adj* **jazz•i•er**; **-est** [*also more ~; most ~*]
1 : having the qualities of jazz music • *jazzy* tunes • a *jazzy* piano solo
2 *informal* : bright, lively, or fancy in a way that is meant to attract attention • *jazzy* decorations • He wore a *jazzy* suit to the party. • You're looking pretty *jazzy* [=*snazzy*] today.

J.D. *abbr* doctor of jurisprudence; doctor of law

jeal•ous /ˈʤɛləs/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]
1 : feeling or showing jealousy: such as **a** : feeling or showing an unhappy or angry desire to have what someone else has • His success has made some of his old friends *jealous*. — often + *of* • Some of his old friends are *jealous* [=*envious*] *of* his success. = Some of his old friends are *jealous of* him because of his success. • He feels *jealous of* his rich friends. **b** : feeling or showing unhappiness or anger because you think that someone you love (such as your husband or wife) likes or is liked by someone else • a *jealous* husband • She became very *jealous* whenever he talked to other women. • He was in a *jealous* rage.
2 *somewhat formal* : very concerned about protecting or keeping something — + *of* • She was *jealous of* her good reputation. • He has always been very *jealous of* his privacy.
– **jeal•ous•ly** *adv* • He spoke *jealously* of his friend's success. • He *jealously* accused his wife of flirting with other men. • a *jealously* [=*closely*] guarded secret

jeal•ou•sy /ˈʤɛləsi/ *noun, pl* **-sies**
1 : an unhappy or angry feeling of wanting to have what someone else has [*noncount*] professional *jealousy* [=resentment of the success of someone who is in the same profession as you] [*count*] petty *jealousies* among political rivals
2 : an unhappy or angry feeling caused by the belief that someone you love (such as your husband or wife) likes or is liked by someone else [*noncount*] a marriage ruined by infidelity and *jealousy* • He was driven crazy with *jealousy*. [*count*] He was unable to control his *jealousies*.

jeans /ʤiːnz/ *noun* [*plural*] : pants made of a strong cloth (called denim) • He was wearing (a pair of) *jeans*. — see color picture on page C14

Jeep /ʤiːp/ *trademark* — used for a small truck that can be driven over very rough surfaces

jee•pers /ˈʤiːpɚz/ *interj, informal + old-fashioned* — used to express surprise • *Jeepers*, it's cold out here!

jeer /ʤiɚ/ *verb* **jeers**; **jeered**; **jeer•ing** : to shout insulting words at someone : to laugh at or criticize someone in a loud and angry way [*no obj*] The crowd *jeered* (at him) when he struck out. • He tried to ignore the *jeering* crowd. [+ *obj*] The crowd *jeered* him when he struck out. • The prisoner was *jeered* by an angry mob.
– **jeer** *noun, pl* **jeers** [*count*] • His appearance drew *jeers* from the crowd.

jeez *variant spelling of* GEEZ

Je•ho•vah /ʤɪˈhoʊvə/ *noun* [*singular*] — used as the name of God in the Old Testament of the Bible

Jehovah's Witness *noun, pl* ~ **-nesses** [*count*] : a member of a religious group that believes that the world will end soon and that tries to get people to become members so they will be saved

je•june /ʤɪˈʤuːn/ *adj, formal*
1 : not interesting : BORING • the novel's *jejune* plot
2 : too simple • She made *jejune* remarks about life and art.

Je•kyll and Hyde /ˈʤɛkələnˈhaɪd/ *noun* [*singular*] : someone who is sometimes good and pleasant and sometimes very rude or bad • He's a real *Jekyll and Hyde* who can become violent without warning. • his *Jekyll and Hyde* tendencies ✧ This term comes from "The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde," a story by Robert Louis Stevenson. In the story, Dr. Jekyll is a scientist who creates a liquid that changes him from a good man to the evil Mr. Hyde when he drinks it.

jell /ʤɛl/ *verb* **jells**; **jelled**; **jell•ing** [*no obj*]
1 : to become clear and definite : GEL • The idea *jelled*. • Our plans are finally starting to *jell*. • A few scenes in the movie don't *jell*. [=*work*]
2 : to change into a thick substance that is like jelly • Boil the jam until it begins to *jell*.

Jell–O /ˈʤɛloʊ/ *trademark* — used for a fruit-flavored dessert made with gelatin

jel•ly /ˈʤɛli/ *noun, pl* **-lies**
1 : a sweet and soft food made by boiling sugar and fruit juice until it is thick [*count*] a selection of different *jellies* and jams [*noncount*] He spread some *jelly* on his toast. • a jar of grape *jelly* • a peanut butter and *jelly* sandwich • a *jelly* doughnut [=a doughnut with jelly inside of it] — sometimes used figuratively • One look from her reduces me to *jelly*. [=makes me feel very weak and nervous] • Shock and fear turned my legs to *jelly*. [=made my legs feel very weak]
2 [*noncount*] *Brit* : a fruit-flavored dessert made with gelatin ✧ In the U.S., this kind of dessert is known by the trademark *Jell-O*.
3 [*noncount*] *old-fashioned* : a food made from meat juices and gelatin • a meat glaze made with stock and *jelly*
4 : a substance that is soft and thick like jelly [*count*] liquid ointments and *jellies* [*noncount*] lubricating *jelly* — see also PETROLEUM JELLY
– **jel•lied** /ˈʤɛlid/ *adj* • *jellied* candies – **jel•ly•like** /ˈʤɛliˌlaɪk/ *adj* • a thick *jellylike* substance

jelly baby *noun, pl* ~ **-bies** [*count*] *Brit* : a soft candy shaped like a baby and made with gelatin

jelly bean *noun, pl* ~ **beans** [*count*] : a candy that is shaped like a bean and has a hard sugar shell with a soft center

jel•ly•fish /'ʤɛli,fɪʃ/ *noun, pl* **jellyfish** [*count*] : a sea animal that has a very soft body and that can sting



jellyfish

jelly roll *noun, pl* ~ **rolls** [*count*] *US* : a thin sheet of cake that is spread with jelly and rolled up — called also (*Brit*) *Swiss roll*

[1]jem•my /'ʤɛmi/ *noun, pl* **-mies** [*count*] *Brit* : [1]JIMMY

[2]jemmy *verb* **-mies**; **-mied**; **-my•ing** [+ *obj*] *Brit* : [2]JIMMY

je ne sais quoi /ʒənə,seɪ'kwɑ:/ *noun* [*singular*] *sometimes humorous* : a pleasant quality that is hard to describe • Although the sculpture had flaws, it also had ***a certain je ne sais quoi*** that made it very appealing. ✧ In French the phrase *je ne sais quoi* means literally "I know not what."

jeop•ar•dize *also Brit* **jeop•ar•dise** /'ʤɛpə,daɪz/ *verb* **-diz•es**; **-dized**; **-diz•ing** [+ *obj*] : to put (something or someone) in danger • The wrong decision could (seriously) *jeopardize* your career. • His health has been *jeopardized* by poor nutrition.

jeop•ar•dy /'ʤɛpəɹdi/ *noun*

in jeopardy : in a situation in which someone or something is exposed to possible injury, loss, or evil : in danger • He is responsible for placing innocent lives *in jeopardy*. • The wrong decision could place your career *in* (serious) *jeopardy*. • Public opinion puts this proposal *in* serious *jeopardy*.

– see also DOUBLE JEOPARDY

[1]jerk /'ʤɚk/ *noun, pl* **jerks** [*count*]

1 *informal* : a stupid person or a person who is not well-liked or who treats other people badly • That *jerk* can't do anything right. • Most of the kids are nice, but some are *jerks*.

2 a : a quick pull or twist • The dead branch came loose after a few *jerks*. • He felt the *jerk* of the line as a fish took the bait. • The door was stuck, but I ***gave it a jerk*** [=pulled on it very hard and very quickly] and it opened. **b** : a sudden sharp movement • The car started with a *jerk*.

[2]jerk *verb* **jerks**; **jerked**; **jerk•ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to push, pull, or twist (something) with a quick movement • I *jerked* the door open. • She *jerked* the phone out of my hand.

2 a : to move (something) with a sharp, quick motion [+ *obj*] He *jerked* his head in the direction of the door and said, "Let's go." [*no obj*] The car *jerked* into motion. **b** *always followed by an adverb, adjective, or preposition* : to cause (someone) to move suddenly [+ *obj*] He was *jerked* awake by the sound of a baby crying. — sometimes used figuratively • She was *jerked* back to reality by the baby's crying. [*no obj*] He *jerked* awake when the baby started to cry.

jerk around [*phrasal verb*] ***jerk (someone) around*** *chiefly US, informal* : to be unfair or dishonest with (someone) : to lie to or cheat (someone) • I felt like that salesman was trying to *jerk* me *around*. — often used as *(be/get) jerked around* • I felt like I was *getting jerked around* by that salesman.

jerk off [*phrasal verb*] *informal + impolite, of a man* : MASTURBATE

jer•kin /'ʤɚkən/ *noun, pl* **-kins** [*count*] : a type of short jacket that has no sleeves and that was worn in the past

jerk•wa•ter /'ʤɚk,wɑ:tɚ/ *adj, always used before a noun, US, informal + disapproving* — used to describe a small town, village, etc., that is out in the country far from cities • He lives in some *jerkwater* town in the middle of nowhere.

[1]jer•ky /'ʤɚki/ *noun* [*noncount*] *US* : meat that has been cut into long strips and dried • beef *jerky*

[2]jerky /'ʤɚki/ *adj* **jerk•i•er**; **-est**

1 : marked by quick rough motions or sudden starts and stops • He made *jerky* movements. • The movie was *jerky* and hard to watch.

2 *informal* : foolish, stupid, or rude • *jerky* behavior

– **jerk•i•ly** /'ʤɚkəli/ *adv* • The train moved *jerkily* into the station. – **jerk•i•ness** /'ʤɚkinəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] • the *jerkiness* of her movements • I can't believe his *jerkiness*!

jer•ry–built /'ʤeri,bɪlt/ *adj, informal + disapproving* : built cheaply and quickly : not well-built • *jerry-built* houses

jer•ry–rigged /'ʤeri,rɪgd/ *adj, chiefly US* : made in a quick or careless way : not built or designed well • We'll have to replace the building's *jerry-rigged* heating system.

jer•sey /'ʤɚzi/ *noun, pl* **-seys**

1 [*count*] **a** : a loose shirt worn by a member of a sports team as part of a uniform • a football *jersey* **b** : a shirt made of knitted cloth

2 [*count*] *Brit* : SWEATER

3 [*noncount*] : a soft knitted cloth • The dress is made of cotton/wool *jersey*.

4 *Jersey* [*count*] : a type of small and light brown cow that produces rich milk • We keep a herd of *Jerseys*. • *Jersey* cows

Je•ru•sa•lem artichoke /ʤə,ru:sələm-/ *noun, pl* ~ **-chokes** [*count*] : the root of a plant that looks like a potato and is eaten as a vegetable

[1]jest /'ʤɛst/ *noun, pl* **jests** *formal + old-fashioned* : something said or done to cause laughter : JOKE [*count*] It was a harmless *jest*. [*noncount*] I didn't mean to upset you; I only said it ***in jest*** [=I was only joking]

[2]jest *verb* **jests**; **jest•ed**; **jest•ing** [*no obj*] *formal + old-fashioned* : to say things that are meant to cause laughter : JOKE • You voted for him? ***Surely you jest*** [=you must be joking]

jest•er /'ʤɛstɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a man who in the past was kept by a ruler to amuse people by acting silly and telling jokes • the court *jester*

Je•su•it /'ʤɛzuwət, *Brit* 'ʤɛzjuət/ *noun, pl* **-its** [*count*] : a man who is a member of a religious group called the Roman Catholic Society of Jesus

Je•sus Christ /'ʤi:zəs'kraɪst/ *noun* [*singular*] : the man who Christians believe is the son of God and whose life, death, and resurrection as reported in the New Testament of the Bible are the basis of the Christian religion — called also *Christ, Jesus* ✧ *Jesus Christ, Christ*, and *Jesus* are commonly used as interjections to express surprise and anger. These uses are avoided in polite speech.

[1]jet /'ʤɛt/ *noun, pl* **jets** [*count*]

1 : a fast airplane that has one or more jet engines • a private/commercial/corporate *jet* — often used before another noun • a *jet* airplane/plane • a *jet* pilot — see also JUMBO JET

2 a : a very strong stream of liquid or gas that comes out through a narrow opening • The telescope has photographed *jets* of gas shooting out from the distant star. **b** : a tube that contains and directs a very strong stream of liquid or gas • One of the fountain's *jets* was blocked.

– compare [3]JET

[2]jet *verb* **jets**; **jet•ted**; **jet•ting**

1 : to travel by jet airplane [*no obj*] She *jetted* (off) from London to New York for a meeting. [+ *obj*] We *jetted* our representative from London to New York for the meeting.

2 : to come through a narrow opening with great force [*no obj*] Steam *jetted* from the kettle's spout. [+ *obj*] The geyser *jets* a tower of water into the air.

[3]jet *noun* [*noncount*] : a hard black stone that is often used for jewelry — compare [1]JET

jet black *noun* [*noncount*] : a very dark black color

– **jet–black** /'ʤɛt'blæk/ *adj* • He had *jet-black* hair.

jet engine *noun, pl* ~ **-gines** [*count*] : an engine in which a very strong stream of heated air and gases shoots out from the rear of the engine and pushes the engine forward — see picture at AIRPLANE

jet lag *noun* [*noncount*] : a tired and unpleasant feeling that you sometimes get when you travel by airplane to a place that is far away • I had bad *jet lag* after that last trip overseas.

– **jet–lagged** /'ʤɛt,lægd/ *adj* • *jet-lagged* tourists

jet•lin•er /'ʤɛt,laɪnɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *US* : a large jet airplane used for carrying passengers

jet–pro•pelled /'ʤɛtprə'pɛld/ *adj* : moved forward by a jet engine • a *jet-propelled* missile

jet propulsion *noun* [*noncount*] : the use of a jet engine to create forward movement of an airplane, missile, etc.

jet•sam /'ʤɛtsəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : floating objects that are thrown into the water from a ship — usually used in the phrase ***flotsam and jetsam*** • We walked along the *flotsam and jetsam* that had washed up onto the beach. — often used figuratively • She was sorting through the *flotsam and jetsam* that had accumulated on her desk. — compare FLOTSAM

jet set *noun*

the jet set *somewhat old-fashioned* : wealthy people who often travel to different parts of the world • It was a trend started by *the jet set*.

– **jet–set•ter** /'ʤɛt,sɛtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*] • a luxurious hotel that is popular among *jet-setters* – **jet–set•ting** /'ʤɛt,sɛtɪŋ/ *adj* • *jet-setting* film stars

Jet Ski *trademark* — used for a small and fast vehicle that is used on water and carries one or two people

jet stream *noun, pl* ~ **streams** [*count*] *technical* : a strong current of fast winds high above the Earth's surface — usu-

ally singular ▪ unusual weather patterns caused by changes in the *jet stream*

jet•ti•son /'ʤɛtəsən/ *verb* **-sons**; **-soned**; **-son•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to drop (something) from a moving ship, airplane, etc. ▪ The captain gave orders to *jettison* the cargo. ▪ They *jettisoned* the fuel and made an emergency landing.
2 : to get rid of (something) ▪ We should *jettison* these old computers and get new ones. : to reject (something, such as a plan or idea) ▪ They *jettisoned* plans for a vacation.

jet•ty /'ʤɛti/ *noun, pl* **-ties** [*count*] : a long structure that is built out into water and used as a place to get on, get off, or tie up a boat

Jew /'ʤu:/ *noun, pl* **Jews** [*count*] : someone whose religion is Judaism, who is descended from Jewish people, or who participates in the culture surrounding Judaism
– **Jew•ish** /'ʤu:wɪʃ/ *adj* ▪ a *Jewish* temple ▪ Are you *Jewish*?
– **Jew•ish•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

jew•el /'ʤu:l/ *noun, pl* **-els** [*count*]
1 : a valuable stone (such as a ruby or diamond) that has been cut and polished ▪ That diamond is one of world's largest *jewels*.
2 : a piece of jewelry (such as a necklace or a bracelet) that is made of valuable metal and precious stones — usually plural ▪ She was dressed in an evening gown and *jewels*.
3 : someone or something that is highly valued or admired ▪ This painting is the *jewel* in our gallery. ▪ She's a *jewel*. ▪ The building is regarded as one of the *jewels* of modern architecture. ▪ He owns several successful businesses but this company is the ***jewel in the crown*** [=this company is the most valuable/important/admired] — see also CROWN JEWEL
4 : the part of a watch that is made of a crystal or a precious stone
the family jewels **1** : jewelry that has been passed from one generation to another ▪ She inherited *the family jewels* after the death of her grandmother. **2** *informal + humorous* : a man's sexual organs
– **jew•eled** (*US*) *or Brit* **jew•elled** /'ʤu:ld/ *adj* ▪ a *jeweled* sword [=a sword decorated with jewels] ▪ The guests were heavily *jeweled*. [=the guests were wearing a lot of jewelry]

jewel case *noun, pl* ~ **cases** [*count*] : a clear plastic case in which a CD or DVD is stored — called also *jewel box*

jew•el•er (*US*) *or Brit* **jew•el•ler** /'ʤu:lə/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a person who makes, repairs, or sells jewelry and watches

jew•el•ry (*US*) *or Brit* **jew•el•lery** /'ʤu:lri/ *noun* [*noncount*] : decorative objects (such as rings, necklaces, and earrings) that people wear on their body ▪ silver and turquoise *jewelry* ▪ a store that sells *jewelry* ▪ *jewelry* stores — see color picture on page C11; see also COSTUME JEWELRY

Jew•ry /'ʤu:ri/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : Jewish people as a group ▪ American *Jewry*

[1]jib /'ʤɪb/ *noun, pl* **jibs** [*count*]
1 : a small triangular sail near the front of a sailboat
2 *technical* : the long part of a crane that carries the weight of the object that the crane is lifting

[2]jib *verb* **jibs**; **jibbed**; **jib•bing** [*no obj*] *Brit, old-fashioned* : to hesitate or refuse to do or accept something : BALK — usually + *at* ▪ Investors *jibbed at* putting more money into the company.

[1]jibe /'ʤaɪb/ *verb* **jibes**; **jibed**; **jib•ing** [*no obj*] *US, informal* : to agree *with* someone or something ▪ His story didn't *jibe with* the testimony of other witnesses. ▪ What he told me doesn't *jibe with* my experience. — compare [2]JIBE

[2]jibe *verb* **jibes**; **jibed**; **jibing** [*no obj*] : to cause a sailboat to change direction by swinging the sail to the opposite side of the boat — compare [1]JIBE

[3]jibe *variant spelling of* GIBE

jif•fy /'ʤɪfi/ *noun* [*singular*] *informal* : a very brief time : MOMENT — usually used in the phrase ***in a jiffy*** ▪ I'll be there *in a jiffy*.

Jiffy bag *trademark, Brit* — used for a thick, padded mailing envelope

[1]jig /'ʤɪg/ *noun, pl* **jigs** [*count*] : a type of lively dance ▪ She did/danced a little *jig*.; *also* : the music played for such a dance ▪ Hey, play us a *jig*!
the jig is up *US, informal + old-fashioned* — used to say that a dishonest plan or activity has been discovered and will not be allowed to continue ▪ *The jig is up*: where did you hide the stolen goods?

[2]jig *verb* **jigs**; **jigged**; **jig•ging**
1 : to move with quick sudden movements [+ *obj*] He *jigged* [=*jiggled*] his fishing line. [*no obj*] (*chiefly Brit*) The horses *jigged* around nervously.
2 [*no obj*] : to dance a jig ▪ We *jigged* to the fiddle music.

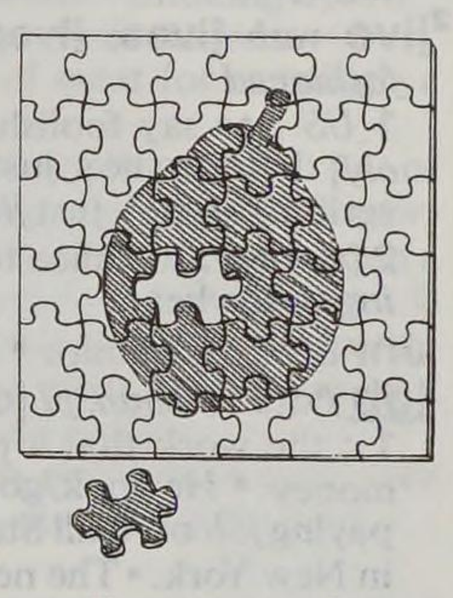
jig•ger /'ʤɪgə/ *noun, pl* **-gers** [*count*] : a small cup or glass that is used to measure alcohol; *also* : the amount held in a jigger ▪ He poured a *jigger* of whiskey into the glass.

jig•gery–pok•ery /'ʤɪgəri'poʊkəri/ *noun* [*noncount*] *Brit, informal* : dishonest or suspicious activity ▪ There's some *jiggery-pokery* [=*hanky-panky*] going on behind the scenes.

jig•gle /'ʤɪgəl/ *verb* **jig•gles**; **jig•gled**; **jig•gling** : to move or cause (something) to move with quick, short movements up and down or side to side [+ *obj*] He *jiggled* the doorknob. ▪ Try to avoid *jiggling* the camera. [*no obj*] His belly *jiggled* like a bowlful of jelly.
– **jiggle** *noun, pl* **jiggles** [*count*] ▪ You have to give the doorknob a *jiggle* to open the door. ▪ It's hard to avoid a few *jiggles* when you're using a video camera.

jig•saw /'ʤɪgˌsɑ:/ *noun, pl* **-saws** [*count*]
1 : a machine that has a narrow blade for cutting curved lines in thin pieces of wood, metal, plastic, etc.
2 *chiefly Brit* : JIGSAW PUZZLE

jigsaw puzzle *noun, pl* ~ **puzzles** [*count*] : a puzzle made of many small pieces that are cut into various shapes and can be fit together to form a picture ▪ We spent many nights working on a *jigsaw puzzle* of Mount Everest. — often used figuratively ▪ Ecologists no longer view different species as independent, but instead see them as pieces of the same *jigsaw puzzle*. — called also (*chiefly Brit*) *jigsaw*


jigsaw puzzle

ji•had /ʤɪ'hɑ:d/ *noun, pl* **-hads** [*count*] : a war fought by Muslims to defend or spread their beliefs

jilt /'ʤɪlt/ *verb* **jilts**; **jilt•ed**; **jilt•ing** [+ *obj*] : to end a romantic relationship with (someone) in a sudden and painful way ▪ She was crushed when he *jilted* her. — often used as *(be) jilted* ▪ She *was jilted* at the altar. [=the man who was supposed to marry her did not show up for the wedding] ▪ a *jilted* lover

Jim Crow /'ʤɪm'kroʊ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the unfair treatment of black people in the past in the southern U.S. when laws were passed that did not give them the same rights as white people ▪ the era of *Jim Crow* ▪ *Jim Crow* laws

jim–dan•dy /'ʤɪm'dændi/ *adj, US, informal* : very fine or excellent ▪ We had a *jim-dandy* vacation.

jim•mies /'ʤɪmiz/ *noun* [*plural*] *US* : small and thin pieces of candy often sprinkled on ice cream

[1]jim•my /'ʤɪmi/ *noun, pl* **-mies** [*count*] *US* : a short metal bar used to force things open or as a lever ▪ The burglar used a *jimmy* to open the window. — called also (*Brit*) *jemmy*

[2]jimmy *verb* **-mies**; **-mied**; **-my•ing** [+ *obj*] *US* : to force (something, such as a lock, door, or window) open with a metal bar or a similar tool ▪ The burglar *jimmied* [=(*Brit*) *jemmied*] the window (open).

[1]jin•gle /'ʤɪŋgəl/ *noun, pl* **jin•gles** [*count*]
1 : a light ringing sound that is made when metal objects hit each other ▪ I heard the *jingle* of bells.
2 : a short song that is easy to remember and that is used to help sell a product on television or radio ▪ an advertising *jingle*

[2]jingle *verb* **jingles**; **jin•gled**; **jin•gling** : to make or cause (something) to make a light ringing sound [*no obj*] Bells *jingled* in the distance. ▪ *jingling* bracelets/bells/coins ▪ a *jingling* sound [+ *obj*] She *jingled* the coins in her pocket.

jin•go•ism /'ʤɪŋgoʊˌɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] *disapproving* : the feelings and beliefs of people who think that their country is always right and who are in favor of aggressive acts against other countries ▪ When the war began many people were caught up in a wave of *jingoism*.
– **jin•go•is•tic** /ˌʤɪŋgoʊ'ɪstɪk/ *adj* ▪ *jingoistic* attitudes

jin•ni /'ʤi:ni/ *or* **jinn** /'ʤɪn/ *also* **djinn** /'ʤɪn/ *noun, pl* **jinn** *or* **jinns** *also* **djinns** [*count*] : GENIE

[1]jinx /'ʤɪŋks/ *noun, pl* **jinx•es** [*count*] *informal* : someone or something that causes bad luck ▪ That guy is a *jinx*.; *also* : a state or period of bad luck caused by a jinx ▪ He felt like he'd finally broken the *jinx*. ▪ She threatened to put a *jinx* on him.

[2]jinx *verb* **jinxes**; **jinxed**; **jinx•ing** [+ *obj*] *informal* : to bring bad luck to (someone or something) ▪ I thought they were

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going to win but I didn't say so because I didn't want to *jinx* them. ▪ His luck has been so bad he feels *jinxed*.

jit•ter•bug /'ʤɪtəˌbʌg/ *noun* [*singular*] : a very lively type of dance from the 1940s
– **jitterbug** *verb* **-bugs**; **-bugged**; **-bug•ging** [*no obj*] ▪ Couples were *jitterbugging* on the dance floor.

jit•ters /'ʤɪtəz/ *noun*
the jitters *informal* : a very nervous feeling ▪ I always get *the jitters* before I have to give a speech. = Having to give a speech gives me (a bad case of) *the jitters*.

jit•tery /'ʤɪtəri/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *informal* : very nervous ▪ I always get/feel *jittery* when I have to give a speech. ▪ The latest economic news has made some investors *jittery*.

[1]jive /'ʤaɪv/ *noun, pl* **jives** *informal + somewhat old-fashioned*
1 [*noncount*] *US* **a** : informal language that includes many slang terms ▪ She grew up talking street *jive*. **b** : deceptive or foolish talk ▪ I'm tired of listening to your *jive*.
2 [*noncount*] : a type of fast lively music that was especially popular in the early part of the 20th century ▪ play some *jive*, *also* [*count*] : a dance performed to this type of music ▪ dancing a *jive*

[2]jive *verb* **jives**; **jived**; **jiv•ing** *informal + somewhat old-fashioned*
1 *US* : to say foolish or deceptive things to (someone) [+ *obj*] I know he's just *jiving* me. [*no obj*] Don't take him seriously—he's just *jiving*.
2 [*no obj*] : to dance to or play jive music ▪ Everyone was *jiving* to the beat.

Jnr *abbr, Brit* junior ▪ Dave Smith *Jnr*

job /'ʤɑːb/ *noun, pl* **jobs** [*count*]
1 : the work that a person does regularly in order to earn money ▪ He took/got a *job* as a waiter. ▪ She has a high-paying *job* on Wall Street. ▪ She's trying to get/land/find a *job* in New York. ▪ The new factory will create thousands of *jobs*. ▪ They offered him the *job* but he turned it down. ▪ a part-time/full-time *job* ▪ a *job* interview/offer/description ▪ *job*-hunting ▪ *job*-hunters ▪ My teenage son is looking for a ***summer job***. [=a job for the summer only] ▪ If the restaurant closes, she'll ***lose her job***. = If the restaurant closes, she'll be ***out of a job***. [=she will no longer have a job] ▪ Although he plays music at night, he hasn't been able to give up his ***day job***. [=the regular job that he does during the day] ▪ You shouldn't blame her for what happened. She was ***just/only doing her job***. [=she was doing things that her job requires her to do] ▪ We wouldn't be having these problems if everyone had just ***done their job/jobs***. [=if everyone had properly done the work they were supposed to do]
2 : a duty, task, or function that someone or something has ▪ It was your *job* to mow the lawn. = You had the *job* of mowing the lawn. ▪ The blood's *job* is to carry oxygen to the different parts of the body. ▪ When I asked her to clean up the mess, she said, "That's not my *job*." [=I'm not supposed to do that] ▪ Construction of the bridge turned out to be a bigger *job* than they had expected. ▪ a small *job* ▪ It's a dirty *job*, but someone has to do it. ▪ The computer was processing a ***print job***. [=the computer was printing a document or file] ▪ The car needs a ***brake/valve job***. [=the car needs to have its brakes/valves repaired] ✧ ***Odd jobs*** are small tasks of different kinds that are not planned and do not happen regularly. ▪ He does *odd jobs* around the farm. ***synonyms*** see [1]TASK
3 — used to describe how well or badly something has been done ▪ Whoever planned the party ***did a good/great job***. [=that person planned the party very well] ▪ He ***did a bad job*** of explaining his reasons. [=he did not explain his reasons well] ▪ "I finished the project ahead of schedule." "***Good job***!" ✧ The phrase ***a good job*** is used in informal British English to refer to something fortunate. ▪ It's *a good job* I had my seat belt on! = I had my seat belt on—and *a good job*, too! [=it's good/lucky for me that I had my seat belt on] ✧ The phrase ***a bad job*** is used in informal British English to refer to something that is very difficult or impossible to do. ▪ I tried my best to persuade him, but in the end I ***gave it up as a bad job***. [=I stopped trying to do it because it could not be done]
4 : something that requires very great effort ▪ It was a real *job* to talk over all that noise.
5 *informal* : a thing of some kind ▪ I bought one of those little quilted *jobs* [=*items, numbers*] at the craft fair.
6 *informal* : a criminal act such as robbery ▪ They've finally caught the gang that pulled the bank *job*. [=the gang that robbed the bank] ▪ Police suspect that the bank robbery may have been an ***inside job***. [=that the bank robbery was done by or with the help of someone who works in the bank]
do a job on *US, informal* : to damage (something or someone) badly ▪ The collision really *did a job on* their car. ▪ Moving all that furniture *did a job on* my back.
do the job *informal* : to achieve a desired result ▪ The new system isn't working yet, but a few more adjustments ought to *do the job*. [=*do the trick*]
fall down on the job see [1]FALL
on the job **1** : while working on a job ▪ He was injured *on the job*. ▪ New employees are given *on-the-job* training. **2** *Brit slang* : having sex ▪ They were in the back room, *on the job*.
walk off the/your job see [1]WALK
– see also HATCHET JOB, NOSE JOB, PUT-UP JOB
– **job•less** /'ʤɑːbləs/ *adj* ▪ The factory closing left 5,000 people *jobless*. – **job•less•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ *Joblessness* [=*unemployment*] is on the rise.

job action *noun, pl* **~ -tions** [*count*] *US* : something (such as a strike or a slowing of work) done by workers to protest bad conditions, low wages, etc. ▪ The union has threatened a *job action* if wages are not increased. — called also (*Brit*) *industrial action*

job lot *noun, pl* **~ lots** [*count*] *Brit* : a collection of goods that are being sold as a group ▪ The warehouse bought the pieces as a *job lot*.

job sharing *noun* [*noncount*] : a situation in which two people share the work, hours, and pay of one job ▪ *Job sharing* is becoming more common. ▪ a *job-sharing* arrangement

jock /'ʤɑːk/ *noun, pl* **jocks** [*count*]
1 *chiefly US, informal + sometimes disapproving* : someone who is very involved in sports : ATHLETE ▪ She was a *jock* in high school and led her basketball team to the state championship. ▪ He's just a dumb *jock*.
2 *US, informal* : DISC JOCKEY — see also SHOCK JOCK

[1]jock•ey /'ʤɑːki/ *noun, pl* **-eys** [*count*]
1 : someone who rides horses in races
2 *informal* : someone who operates or works with a specified vehicle, device, object, or material ▪ a bus *jockey* [=a bus driver] ▪ computer *jockeys* — see also DISC JOCKEY

[2]jockey *verb* **-eys**; **-eyed**; **-ey•ing**
1 [*no obj*] : to do something in an effort to get an advantage ▪ There was a lot of political *jockeying* at the fund-raiser. — often used in the phrase ***jockey for position*** ▪ Several companies are *jockeying for position* [=are trying to get a better position or situation] in the market.
2 [+ *obj*] *chiefly US* : to change the position of (something) by slow and careful movements ▪ The driver carefully *jockeyed* the truck into a narrow space in the crowded parking lot.

jock•strap /'ʤɑːkˌstræp/ *noun, pl* **-straps** [*count*] : a piece of underwear worn by men and boys to protect their sexual organs while playing sports — called also (*chiefly US*) *athletic supporter*

jo•cose /ʤoʊ'koʊs/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal + literary* : very cheerful ▪ his *jocose* demeanor
– **jo•cose•ly** *adv*

joc•u•lar /'ʤɑːkjələ/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal*
1 : liking to tell jokes ▪ a *jocular* man who could make the most serious people smile
2 : said or done as a joke ▪ a *jocular* comment
– **joc•u•lar•i•ty** /ˌʤɑːkjə'lerəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] – **joc•u•lar•ly** *adv*

jodh•purs /'ʤɑːdpəz/ *noun* [*plural*] : tight pants that are worn for horseback riding ▪ a pair of *jodhpurs*

joe /'ʤoʊ/ *noun, pl* **joes** *US, informal*
1 *or* ***Joe*** [*count*] : an ordinary man : GUY ▪ He's just an average/ordinary *Joe*.
2 [*singular*] : COFFEE — usually used in the phrase ***a cup of joe*** ▪ She starts the day with *a cup of joe*.

Joe Blow *noun, pl* **~ Blows** [*count*] *US, informal* : an average or ordinary man — usually singular ▪ His movies have no appeal for the average *Joe Blow*. ▪ He's just some *Joe Blow* from off the streets. — called also (*Brit*) *Joe Bloggs*

jo•ey /'ʤowi/ *noun, pl* **joeys** [*count*] : a baby kangaroo

[1]jog /'ʤɑːg/ *verb* **jogs**; **jogged**; **jog•ging**
1 [*no obj*] : to run slowly especially for exercise ▪ She *jogs* three miles a day.
2 [+ *obj*] : to push or bump (someone or something) lightly ▪ She *jogged* [=(more commonly) *nudged*] him with her elbow.
3 [*no obj*] : to move up and down heavily with a short motion ▪ The bag *jogged* against her hip as she walked.
jog along [*phrasal verb*] : to continue in an ordinary or

steady way ▪ Their marriage *jogged along* for several years without any major problems.

jog someone's memory : to cause or help someone to remember something ▪ Maybe this photograph will *jog your memory*.

– **jogging** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ Her hobbies include gardening and *jogging*. ▪ She ***goes jogging*** every day. ▪ a ***jogging suit*** [=a set of clothes people wear when they jog]

²jog *noun, pl* **jogs** [*count*]

1 : a slow run done for exercise ▪ Some people depend on a morning *jog* to give them energy. ▪ We're going to go for a *jog* around the park.

2 : a light shake or push ▪ She gave him a *jog* with her elbow.

jog·ger /ˈʤɑːgɚ/ *noun, pl* **-gers** [*count*] : someone who runs for exercise : someone who jogs ▪ *joggers* out for their morning exercise

john /ˈʤɑːn/ *noun, pl* **johns** [*count*] *chiefly US, informal*

1 : a toilet or bathroom ▪ Excuse me, I have to go to the *john*.

2 : a man who pays money to a prostitute for sex

John Bull /ˈʤɑːnˈbʊl/ *noun, old-fashioned*

1 [*noncount*] : the people or country of England

2 [*singular*] : a typical Englishman

John Doe /ˈʤɑːnˈdoʊ/ *noun, pl* **~ Does** [*count*] *US, law* — used as a name for a man whose true name is not known or is being kept secret; compare JANE DOE

John Han·cock /ˈʤɑːnˈhænˌkɑːk/ *noun, pl* **~ -cocks** [*count*] *US* : a person's signature ▪ He put his *John Hancock* on the contract. [=he signed the contract]

john·ny /ˈʤɑːni/ *noun, pl* **john·nies** [*count*] *US* : a loose piece of clothing that is open at the back and that is worn by someone (such as a hospital patient) who is being examined, treated, etc., by a doctor

John·ny–come–late·ly /ˈʤɑːniˌkʌmˈleɪtli/ *noun, pl* **-lies** [*count*] *informal* : a person who has recently joined a group, started a new activity, etc. : NEWCOMER ▪ When it comes to investing, she's no *Johnny-come-lately*.

joie de vi·vre /ˌʒwɑːdəˈviːvrə/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : a feeling of happiness or excitement about life ▪ She is admired for her energy and *joie de vivre*. ✧ *Joie de vivre* is a French phrase that means literally "joy of living."

join /ˈʤɔɪn/ *verb* **joins; joined; join·ing**

1 a [+ *obj*] : to put or bring (two or more things) together ▪ She *joined* [=*fastened*] the blocks of wood (together) with glue. : to connect (two or more things) ▪ The islands are *joined* by a bridge. **b** : to come together with (something) [+ *obj*] where the river *joins* the sea [=where the river flows into the sea] ▪ The roads/rivers *join* [=*meet*] each other near here. [*no obj*] the place where two roads/rivers *join* (together) ▪ Atoms *join* (together) to make molecules. — often + *up* ▪ The two paths eventually *join up* (with each other).

2 a [+ *obj*] : to go somewhere in order to be with (a person or group) ▪ He insisted that I *join* them for lunch. ▪ We're going out for lunch. Would you like to *join* us? ▪ May I *join* you? ▪ The magician asked for a volunteer from the audience to *join* him on stage. **b** : to do something with (a person or group) [+ *obj*] Everyone here *joins* me in congratulating you on a job well done! [*no obj*] All of us *join* (together) in congratulating you on a job well done! ▪ Several companies have *joined* (together) to support this policy. ▪ The singer started alone but soon the whole audience ***joined in***. **c** : to become involved in or part of (something, such as an activity) [+ *obj*] I *joined* the line and waited patiently to buy a ticket. ▪ Hundreds of people have *joined* the effort to save the building from demolition. ▪ He agreed to *join* the debate. [*no obj*] — + *in* ▪ Hundreds of people have *joined in* the effort to save the building. ▪ She *joined in* the conversation/fun.

3 : to become a member of (a group or organization) [+ *obj*] She *joined* the band/club. ▪ *Join* the Navy and see the world! [*no obj*] The Navy offers great career opportunities, so *join* [=*enlist*] today! — often + *up* ▪ More than 100 people have *joined up*.

if you can't beat them, join them see ¹BEAT

join battle *formal* : to begin fighting : to engage in battle ▪ troops *joining battle* against a hated enemy

join forces see ¹FORCE

join hands : to hold the hand of another person ▪ The priest asked us all to *join hands* and bow our heads in prayer. — often used figuratively ▪ We can accomplish great things if we all *join hands* and work together.

join (someone) in marriage/matrimony *formal* : to marry (someone) ▪ a young couple *joined in marriage*

join the club see ¹CLUB

join the crowd see ²CROWD

join up [*phrasal verb*] : to meet each other at a particular place ▪ We're planning to *join up* (with each other) and have a few drinks after the game.

join·er /ˈʤɔɪnɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

1 *US* : a person who joins many organizations ▪ He's not a *joiner*. He prefers to do things by himself.

2 *chiefly Brit* : a person whose job is to build things (such as door or window frames) by joining pieces of wood

join·ery /ˈʤɔɪnəri/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the work done by a joiner (sense 2)

¹joint /ˈʤɔɪnt/ *noun, pl* **joints**

1 [*count*] **a** : a point where two bones meet in the body ▪ the elbow/knee/shoulder *joint* ▪ She's been having pain in her muscles and *joints*. **b** : a place where two things or parts are joined ▪ seal the *joints* of the pipes

2 [*count*] *informal* **a** : a particular place ▪ People were running ***all over the joint***. [=*everywhere*] **b** : a cheap bar or club ▪ I can't believe we came to a (cheap) *joint* like this. **c** : an informal restaurant ▪ a hamburger/pizza *joint*

3 [*count*] *informal* : a marijuana cigarette ▪ smoking a *joint*

4 *the joint* *US slang* : PRISON ▪ five years in *the joint*

5 [*count*] *chiefly Brit* : a large piece of meat for roasting ▪ a *joint* of beef

out of joint **1** *of a bone* : not in the correct position : out of its socket ▪ His shoulder kept slipping *out of joint*. **2** *informal* : not in agreement or order ▪ My schedule has gotten a little *out of joint* [=*disorganized*] in the past few weeks. **3** *informal* ✧ If you have your ***nose out of joint***, you are angry or annoyed. ▪ We had to wait a while, but that wasn't any reason for him to get his *nose out of joint*.

stink up the joint *US, informal* : to perform or play very badly ▪ This year the team is really *stinking up the joint*.

²joint *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : combining the work of two or more people or groups of people ▪ It took a *joint* [=*united*] effort to get the job done. ▪ a *joint* session of (both houses of) Congress

2 : done by or involving two or more people ▪ a *joint* venture ▪ *joint* research ▪ filing a *joint* tax return ▪ They had a *joint* account at the bank. ▪ divorced parents who have *joint* custody of their child ▪ (*Brit*) They came in *joint* third. [=they both finished in third place]

3 : doing something together ▪ *joint* owners

– **joint·ly** *adv* ▪ a study conducted *jointly* by scientists in two countries ▪ *jointly* owned property

Joint Chiefs of Staff *noun* [*plural*] : a group made up of the leaders of the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines that advises the President on important military decisions

joint·ed /ˈʤɔɪntəd/ *adj* : having joints that allow parts to move ▪ a doll with *jointed* arms and legs — see also DOUBLE-JOINTED

joist /ˈʤɔɪst/ *noun, pl* **joists** [*count*] : a strong, heavy board that supports a floor or ceiling

¹joke /ˈʤoʊk/ *noun, pl* **jokes** [*count*]

1 a : something said or done to cause laughter ▪ She meant it as a *joke*, but many people took her seriously. ▪ Is this your idea of a *joke*? [=do you think that what you are saying/doing is funny?] ▪ They played a harmless *joke* on him. ▪ They are always ***making jokes*** about his car. ▪ He thought he could embarrass us, but now ***the joke is on him***. [=he is the one who looks foolish] ▪ He just can't ***take a joke***. [=he does not like it when other people make jokes about him] **b** : a brief story with a surprising and funny ending ▪ I heard a funny *joke* yesterday. ▪ the punch line of a *joke* ▪ She's always cracking/telling *jokes*. ▪ I didn't get/understand the *joke*. ▪ an ***inside joke*** [=a joke that is understood only by people with special knowledge about something] — see also IN-JOKE, PRACTICAL JOKE

2 *disapproving* : someone or something that is not worth taking seriously ▪ That exam was a *joke*. ▪ Their product became a *joke* in the industry. ▪ He's in danger of becoming a national *joke*. ▪ It's ***no joke*** to be lost in the woods. = Being lost in the woods is *no joke*. [=being lost in the woods is a serious situation]

²joke *verb* **jokes; joked; jok·ing** : to say things that are meant to cause laughter : to make jokes about someone or something [*no obj*] My friends would *joke* about the uniform I had to wear at work. ▪ She *joked* about the possibility of losing her job. ▪ I thought he was *joking* when he said he might quit, but it turned out that he really meant it. ▪ Don't take it seriously: I was only *joking*. ▪ She spent a few minutes *joking* with reporters after giving her speech. ▪ "The report is

to be done by tomorrow." "***You're joking.*** " = "***You must be joking.***" [=you must be kidding; what you say is very surprising or hard to believe] ▪ It's ***no joking matter***. [=it is no joke; it is a serious matter] [+ *obj*] She *joked* that she could always get work as a truck driver if she lost her job.

joking aside *or Brit* ***joking apart*** — used to introduce a serious statement that follows a humorous statement ▪ It looks like this is a job for Superman! But *joking aside*, this is a serious problem and we're going to need help.

– **jok•ing•ly** /'ʤoʊkɪŋli/ *adv* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ She spoke *jokingly* about the possibility of losing her job.

jok•er /'ʤoʊkɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

1 : a person who tells or makes many jokes ▪ a constant *joker*

2 : an extra card used in some card games usually as a wild card ▪ *Jokers* are wild in this game.

3 *informal* : an annoying, stupid, or offensive person ▪ I can't believe I let that *joker* beat me. ▪ Some *joker* hit our car.

joke•ster /'ʤoʊkstɚ/ *noun, pl* **-sters** [*count*] : a person who tells or makes many jokes : JOKER ▪ the family *jokester*

jok•ey /'ʤoʊki/ *adj, informal* : tending or intended to make people laugh ▪ a *jokey* movie ▪ the *jokey* tone of his stories

– **jok•i•ness** /'ʤoʊkinəs/ *noun* [*noncount*]

jol•lies /'ʤɑ:liz/ *noun*

get your jollies *US, informal + disapproving* : to get a feeling of enjoyment or excitement ▪ She doesn't think much of people who *get their jollies* from watching violent movies. [=people who enjoy watching violent movies]

jol•li•ty /'ʤɑ:ləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : a happy and cheerful quality or state : the quality or state of being jolly ▪ His *jollity* is infectious. ▪ a scene of *jollity*

[1]jol•ly /'ʤɑ:li/ *adj* **jol•li•er**; **-est** [*also more ~; most ~*]

1 : full of happiness and joy : happy and cheerful ▪ Our boss was a very *jolly* man, always laughing. ▪ *jolly* laughter/singing

2 *old-fashioned* : very pleasant or enjoyable ▪ She had a *jolly* time at the party.

[2]jolly *adv, Brit, informal + old-fashioned* : very or extremely ▪ a *jolly* good time/fellow/book ▪ "I've finished my assignment." "*Jolly* good!" ▪ She learned to be *jolly* careful in his presence.

jolly well *Brit, informal + old-fashioned* — used to emphasize anger, annoyance, or disapproval ▪ I'm your father and you'll *jolly well* do as you're told!

[1]jolt /'ʤoʊlt/ *verb* **jolts**; **jolt•ed**; **jolt•ing**

1 a [+ *obj*] : to cause (something or someone) to move in a quick and sudden way ▪ The explosion *jolted* the ship. ▪ He was *jolted* forward when the bus stopped suddenly. ▪ The loud bang *jolted* me awake. ▪ The attack *jolted* the country into action. **b** [*no obj*] : to move with a quick and sudden motion ▪ The car *jolted* [=*jerked*] forward when he let the clutch out too quickly.

2 [+ *obj*] : to surprise or shock (someone) ▪ She *jolted* the medical world with her announcement.

– **jolting** *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ a *jolting* ride ▪ a *jolting* experience

[2]jolt *noun, pl* **jolts** [*count*]

1 : a sudden, rough movement ▪ the initial *jolt* [=*shock*] of the earthquake ▪ I sprang out of bed with a *jolt*. ▪ The car stopped with a *jolt*.

2 : a sudden shock or surprise ▪ I got/had quite a *jolt* when I heard the door slam. ▪ The defeat was quite a *jolt* to the team. ▪ a severe financial *jolt* ▪ The stock market suffered a major *jolt* yesterday.

3 : a small but powerful amount of something ▪ She needed a *jolt* of caffeine to start her day. ▪ a *jolt* of electricity ▪ The unexpected praise he received gave him a *jolt* of confidence.

[1]jones /'ʤoʊnz/ *noun* [*singular*] *US slang* : a very strong desire for something or to do something ▪ She has a crazy *jones* [=*craving*] for fried chicken. ▪ a basketball/writing *jones*

[2]jones *verb* **jones•es**; **jonesed**; **jones•ing** [*no obj*] *US slang* : to have a very strong desire *for* something or *to do* something — usually used as *(be) jonesing* ▪ He *was jonesing for* a cigarette.

Jones•es /'ʤoʊnzəz/ *noun*

keep up with the Joneses *informal + often disapproving* : to show that you are as good as other people by getting what they have and doing what they do ▪ people trying to *keep up with the Joneses* by buying expensive cars and clothes that they can't afford

josh /'ʤɑ:ʃ/ *verb* **josh•es**; **joshed**; **josh•ing** *informal* : to talk to someone in a friendly and joking way [*no obj*] Don't take him seriously. He's just *joshing*. [+ *obj*] He's just *joshing* [=*kidding*] you.

jos•tle /'ʤɑ:səl/ *verb* **jos•tles**; **jos•tled**; **jos•tling** : to push against (someone) while moving forward in a crowd of people [+ *obj*] Everyone in the crowd was *jostling* each other trying to get a better view. [*no obj*] — often + *for* ▪ Everyone in the crowd was *jostling for* room/space. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ political candidates *jostling for* position as the election nears

[1]jot /'ʤɑ:t/ *verb* **jots**; **jot•ted**; **jot•ting** [+ *obj*] : to write down (something) quickly ▪ He paused to *jot* a few notes on a slip of paper. — usually + *down* ▪ He *jotted down* her name and phone number.

[2]jot *noun* [*singular*] *informal + somewhat old-fashioned* : the smallest amount — usually used in negative statements ▪ She has not changed a/one *jot* [=has not changed at all] since we last saw her. ▪ It doesn't make a *jot* of difference.

jot•tings /'ʤɑ:tɪŋz/ *noun* [*plural*] : notes that are written down quickly ▪ a story based on the *jottings* in his notebooks

joule /'ʤu:l/ *noun, pl* **joules** [*count*] *physics* : a unit of work or energy

jour•nal /'ʤɚnl/ *noun, pl* **-nals** [*count*]

1 : a book in which you write down your personal experiences and thoughts : DIARY ▪ I've been keeping a *journal* for several years. ▪ She records her dreams in a *journal*.

2 a : a newspaper — usually used in titles ▪ the *Wall Street Journal* **b** : a magazine that reports on things of special interest to a particular group of people ▪ an academic/scholarly *journal* ▪ a medical *journal* — often used in titles ▪ the *Journal of the American Medical Association*

jour•nal•ism /'ʤɚnəˌlɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the activity or job of collecting, writing, and editing news stories for newspapers, magazines, television, or radio ▪ investigative/broadcast *journalism* ▪ She plans to major in *journalism* when she goes to college. ▪ bad/good/responsible *journalism*

– **jour•nal•ist** /'ʤɚnəlɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] ▪ She is an investigative *journalist*. – **jour•nal•is•tic** /ˌʤɚnə'lɪstɪk/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ her *journalistic* career/experience ▪ *journalistic* styles/standards/techniques – **jour•nal•is•ti•cal•ly** /ˌʤɚnə'lɪstɪkli/ *adv*

[1]jour•ney /'ʤɚni/ *noun, pl* **-neys** [*count*] : an act of traveling from one place to another : TRIP ▪ a long *journey* across the country ▪ a *journey* by train/bus ▪ She's on the last leg of a six-month *journey* through Europe. ▪ We wished her a safe and pleasant *journey*. — often used figuratively ▪ the *journey* from innocence to experience ▪ a *journey* through time ▪ a spiritual *journey*

[2]journey *verb* **-neys**; **-neyed**; **-ney•ing** [*no obj*] : to go on a journey : TRAVEL ▪ They *journeyed* across Europe. ▪ She was the first woman to *journey* into space.

jour•ney•man /'ʤɚnimən/ *noun, pl* **-men** [*count*]

1 : a worker who learns a skill and then works for another person — often used before another noun ▪ a *journeyman* carpenter

2 : a worker, performer, or athlete who is experienced and good but not excellent — often used before another noun ▪ a *journeyman* musician ▪ a *journeyman* baseball player

joust /'ʤaʊst/ *verb* **jousts**; **joust•ed**; **joust•ing** [*no obj*] *of knights in the Middle Ages* : to fight on horseback with lances ▪ The knights *jousted* against each other. — often used figuratively ▪ The two teams *jousted* [=*competed*] for first place. ▪ There was a lot of verbal *jousting* between the lawyers.

– **joust** *noun, pl* **jousts** [*count*] ▪ a *joust* between two knights – **joust•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ an armored *jouster* ▪ a skilled verbal *jouster*

Jove /'ʤoʊv/ *noun*

by Jove *chiefly Brit, old-fashioned + sometimes humorous* — used to express surprise or agreement ▪ *By Jove*, she's really done it! ▪ *By Jove*, you're right!

jo•vi•al /'ʤoʊvijəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : full of happiness and joy : CHEERFUL ▪ The audience was in a *jovial* mood. ▪ He's a very *jovial* man.

– **jo•vi•al•i•ty** /ˌʤoʊvi'æləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] – **jo•vi•al•ly** *adv*

jowl /'ʤawəl/ *noun, pl* **jowls** [*count*] : loose flesh on the cheeks, lower jaw, or throat — usually plural ▪ a man with heavy *jowls* ▪ a dog with big, floppy *jowls*

cheek by jowl see CHEEK

– **jowly** /'ʤaʊli/ *adj* ▪ a *jowly* face/man

joy /'ʤɔɪ/ *noun, pl* **joys**

1 [*noncount*] : a feeling of great happiness ▪ Their sorrow turned to *joy*. ▪ I can hardly express the *joy* I felt at seeing her again. ▪ Seeing her again brought tears of *joy* to my eyes. ▪ He found great *joy* in (doing) his work. ▪ She answered the phone and, to her great *joy*, heard her son's voice on the line.

[=she felt very happy when she heard her son's voice] ▪ They were ***shouting/jumping for joy***. [=they shouted/jumped because they were very happy] — see also *(little) bundle of joy* at [1]BUNDLE

2 [*count*] : a source or cause of great happiness : something or someone that gives joy to someone ▪ The flowers are a *joy* to behold! ▪ What a *joy* it was to see her again. ▪ the *joy* of sailing ▪ the *joys* of parenthood ▪ Her son is her ***pride and joy***. [=her son makes her very proud and happy]

3 [*noncount*] *Brit, informal* : success in doing, finding, or getting something ▪ "You've spent hours looking for it. Any *joy*? [=*luck*]" "No *joy* whatsoever, I'm afraid. I can't find it."

joy•ful /ˈʤɔɪfəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : feeling, causing, or showing great happiness : full of joy ▪ a *joyful* family reunion ▪ the children's *joyful* faces ▪ *joyful* news ▪ We were *joyful* at the news.
– **joy•ful•ly** *adv* ▪ They greeted each other *joyfully*. – **joy•ful•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

joy•less /ˈʤɔɪləs/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : not feeling, causing, or showing happiness : sad or unhappy ▪ a *joyless* occasion/person/look
– **joy•less•ly** *adv* ▪ He smiled *joylessly*. – **joy•less•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

joy•ous /ˈʤojəs/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : feeling, causing, or showing great happiness : JOYFUL ▪ a *joyous* celebration ▪ a *joyous* day ▪ a mood of *joyous* anticipation
– **joy•ous•ly** *adv* – **joy•ous•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

joy•ride /ˈʤɔɪˌraɪd/ *noun, pl* **-rides** [*count*] : a fast car ride taken for pleasure; *especially* : a ride in a stolen car ▪ Some teenager stole my car and took it for a *joyride*. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ This movie is a wonderful *joyride*. [=is very exciting and enjoyable]
– **joy•rid•er** /ˈʤɔɪˌraɪdɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] – **joy•rid•ing** /ˈʤɔɪˌraɪdɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ Some teenager went *joyriding* in my car.

joy•stick /ˈʤɔɪˌstɪk/ *noun, pl* **-sticks** [*count*]
1 : an upright lever used to control an airplane — called also *stick*
2 : a lever used to control the movement of images on the screen in a computer or video game ▪ This game works with either a mouse or *joystick*.

J.P. *abbr* justice of the peace

JPEG /ˈʤeɪˌpɛg/ *noun, pl* **JPEGs** *also* **JPEG's** [*noncount*] : a type of computer file used for storing images; *also* [*count*] : an image that is stored as this type of file ▪ Most of the pictures are *JPEGs*. — often used before another noun ▪ a *JPEG* file/image ✧ *JPEG* is an abbreviation of "Joint Photographic Experts Group."

Jr. *abbr* junior ▪ John Smith, *Jr.*

ju•bi•lant /ˈʤuːbələnt/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : feeling or expressing great joy : very happy ▪ the *jubilant* winners ▪ a *jubilant* celebration
– **ju•bi•lant•ly** *adv* ▪ The fans celebrated *jubilantly*.

ju•bi•la•tion /ˌʤuːbəˈleɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] : great happiness or joy ▪ The team's victory was the cause of great *jubilation*. [=*rejoicing*] ▪ the *jubilation* of the crowd

ju•bi•lee /ˈʤuːbəˌliː, ˌʤuːbəˈliː/ *noun, pl* **-lees** [*count*] : a special anniversary; *also* : a celebration at the time of such an anniversary ▪ a silver/golden/diamond *jubilee*

Ju•da•ism /ˈʤuːdiˌɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the religion developed among the ancient Hebrews that stresses belief in God and faithfulness to the laws of the Torah : the religion of the Jewish people
– **Ju•da•ic** /ʤuˈdejɪk/ *adj* ▪ *Judaic* law/heritage/tradition

Ju•das /ˈʤuːdəs/ *noun, pl* **Ju•das•es** [*count*] : someone who betrays someone else : TRAITOR ▪ He was called a *Judas* by the press.

jud•der /ˈʤʌdɚ/ *verb* **-ders**; **-dered**; **-der•ing** [*no obj*] *Brit* : to shake in a forceful way ▪ The car *juddered* (and came) to a halt.
– **judder** *noun, pl* **-ders** [*count*] ▪ The car gave a *judder* and came to a halt.

Ju•deo–Chris•tian /ʤuˌdejoʊˈkrɪsʧən/ *adj* : relating to both Judaism and Christianity ▪ *Judeo-Christian* values/tradition

[1]judge /ˈʤʌʤ/ *verb* **judg•es**; **judged**; **judg•ing**
1 : to form an opinion about (something or someone) after careful thought [+ *obj*] You should not *judge* people by their appearance. ▪ They *judged* her pie (as) the best. = They *judged* her pie to be the best. = They *judged* that her pie was the best. = Her pie was *judged* (to be) the best. ▪ He was trying to *judge* the strength of his opponent. ▪ It can be difficult to *judge* [=*estimate*] distances/sizes accurately. ▪ We should do whatever we *judge* to be the right thing. [*no obj*] *Judging* from this schedule, we have a busy week ahead. [=this schedule indicates that we have a busy week ahead] ▪ *Judging* by its smell, I'd say the milk is spoiled. = To *judge* from its smell, I'd say the milk is spoiled.

2 [+ *obj*] : to regard (someone) as either good or bad ▪ Who are you to *judge* me? ▪ He feels that they have *judged* him unfairly. ▪ Don't *judge* her too severely/harshly.

3 [+ *obj*] *law* **a** : to make an official decision about (a legal case) ▪ *judge* [=*try*] a case **b** : to decide about the guilt or innocence of someone ▪ The jury will be asked to *judge* the defendant's guilt. ▪ If you are accused of a crime you have the right to be *judged* by a jury of your peers.

4 [+ *obj*] : to decide the winner of (a competition) ▪ *judge* a contest

[2]judge *noun, pl* **judges** [*count*]
1 a *law* : a person who has the power to make decisions on cases brought before a court of law ▪ a federal *judge* ▪ She's one of the strictest *judges* in the state. — often used as a title ▪ The case is being heard by *Judge* Smith. **b** : a person who decides the winner in a contest or competition ▪ He served as a *judge* at the baking contest. ▪ a panel of *judges*

2 a : a person who makes a decision or judgment ▪ "These problems don't concern you." "I'll be the *judge* of that!" [=I'll decide if they concern me; I am not interested in your opinion] ▪ "I don't think we should trust her." "Let me be the *judge* of that." **b** : a person who is good, bad, etc., at making judgments ▪ She is a good *judge* of character.

judge•ship /ˈʤʌʤˌʃɪp/ *noun, pl* **-ships** [*count*] *chiefly US, law* : the position of being a judge ▪ She was appointed to a federal *judgeship*.

judg•ment *or chiefly Brit* **judge•ment** /ˈʤʌʤmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments**
1 a [*count*] : an opinion or decision that is based on careful thought ▪ We have to make a *judgment* about the value of their services. ▪ In my *judgment* [=*opinion*], the stock has performed badly. = It is my *judgment* that the stock has performed badly. ▪ The *judgment* of the editors is final. ▪ I agreed to let him join us, even though it was ***against my better judgment***. [=even though I did not think it was the best thing to do] ▪ a ***snap judgment*** [=a hasty decision or opinion] ▪ ***value judgments*** [=opinions about the worth or value of something] **b** [*noncount*] : the act or process of forming an opinion or making a decision after careful thought : the act of judging something or someone ▪ Don't rush to *judgment* without examining the evidence. ▪ It would be premature to ***pass judgment on*** [=to state an opinion on] his place in history. ▪ Don't *pass judgment on* me [=don't criticize me] until you know all the facts. ▪ "Were his policies good or bad?" "I'll have to ***reserve/suspend judgment on*** that. It's too soon to know." — see also LAST JUDGMENT, VALUE JUDGMENT

2 [*noncount*] : the ability to make good decisions about what should be done ▪ Use your own best *judgment*. ▪ He showed bad *judgment*. = He showed a lack of *judgment*.

3 [*count*] *law* : a decision made by a court ▪ The court granted/pronounced a *judgment* in favor of the plaintiffs. ▪ the *judgment* of the court ▪ I won a *judgment* against the bank.

4 [*count*] *formal* : something bad or unpleasant that is thought to be a punishment from God — usually singular ▪ a divine *judgment* against sinners

sit in judgment : to say whether or not someone or something is morally good, proper, etc. ▪ He has no right to *sit in judgment* on/of/over me. [=he has no right to judge me]

judg•ment•al *or chiefly Brit* **judge•ment•al** /ˌʤʌʤˈmɛnt|/ *adj*
1 [*more ~; most ~*] *disapproving* : tending to judge people too quickly and critically ▪ He's *judgmental* about everyone except himself. ▪ You should try to avoid being so *judgmental*. ▪ a very *judgmental* person
2 : of, relating to, or involving judgment ▪ a *judgmental* error

judgment call *or chiefly Brit* **judgement call** *noun, pl* **~ calls** [*count*] : a decision that is based on your opinion ▪ The rules aren't clear in this case, so officials are required to make a *judgment call*.

Judgment Day *or chiefly Brit* **Judgement Day** *noun* [*noncount*] : the day at the end of the world when according to some religions all people will be judged by God

ju•di•cial /ʤuˈdɪʃəl/ *adj, always used before a noun*
1 a : of or relating to courts of law or judges ▪ *judicial* power ▪ the *judicial* system **b** : ordered or done by a court ▪ a *judicial* decision/action

2 : responsible for dealing with all legal cases involving the government • the *judicial branch* of government — compare EXECUTIVE, LEGISLATIVE
– **ju·di·cial·ly** *adv*

ju·di·cia·ry /ʤu'dɪʃi,eri, ʤu'dɪʃəri/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the courts of law and judges in a country : the branch of government that includes courts of law and judges • the federal *judiciary*

ju·di·cious /ʤu'dɪʃəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : having or showing good judgment : WISE • *judicious* use of our resources • *Judicious* planning now can prevent problems later. • a *judicious* decision
– **ju·di·cious·ly** *adv* • *judiciously* chosen examples – **ju·di·cious·ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

ju·do /'ʤu:,doʊ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a sport developed in Japan in which opponents attempt to throw or wrestle each other to the ground

jug /'ʤʌg/ *noun, pl* **jugs** [*count*]
1 a *chiefly US* : a large, deep container with a narrow opening and a handle • a *jug* of cider **b** *chiefly Brit* : ²PITCHER
2 : the amount held by a jug • a *jug* of milk/wine

jug·ger·naut /'ʤʌgə,nɑ:t/ *noun, pl* **-nauts** [*count*]
1 : something (such as a force, campaign, or movement) that is extremely large and powerful and cannot be stopped • an advertising/political *juggernaut*
2 *Brit* : a very large, heavy truck — called also *juggernaut lorry*

jug·gle /'ʤʌgəl/ *verb* **jug·gles**; **jug·gled**; **jug·gling**
1 : to keep several objects in motion in the air at the same time by repeatedly throwing and catching them [*no obj*] He is learning to *juggle*. [+ *obj*] He *juggled* four balls at once.
2 [+ *obj*] : to do (several things) at the same time • She somehow manages to *juggle* a dozen tasks at once. • It can be hard to *juggle* family responsibilities and/with the demands of a full-time job. — see also *juggling act* at ¹ACT
3 [+ *obj*] : to make changes to (something) in order to achieve a desired result • I'll have to *juggle* my schedule a bit to get this all to work out.
– **jug·gler** /'ʤʌglə/ *noun, pl* **-glers** [*count*] • a *juggler* at the circus

jug·u·lar /'ʤʌgjələ/ *noun, pl* **-lars** [*count*] : JUGULAR VEIN
go for the jugular *informal* : to attack or criticize an opponent in a very aggressive way • He will very quickly *go for the jugular* in the debate.

jugular vein *noun, pl* ~ **veins** [*count*] : a large vein in the neck that takes blood from the head to the heart

¹juice /'ʤu:s/ *noun, pl* **juic·es**
1 a : the liquid part that can be squeezed out of vegetables and fruits [*noncount*] a glass of apple/orange/carrot *juice* [*count*] a variety of fruit *juices* **b** : the liquid part of meat [*noncount*] the *juice* of a steak [*plural*] gravy made with real beef *juices*
2 [*noncount*] *informal* : something (such as electricity) that provides power • Turn on the *juice*. • His camera ran out of *juice* because he forgot to replace the battery.
3 [*count*] : the natural fluids in your stomach — usually plural • digestive/gastric/stomach *juices*
4 [*plural*] *informal* : energy that gives you the ability to do something in a very effective way — used with *flow* • He can be very tough to beat when he gets his competitive *juices flowing*. • She came up with some great ideas when her creative *juices* started *flowing*.
stew in your own juice/juices see ²STEW

²juice *verb* **juices**; **juiced**; **juic·ing** [+ *obj*] : to remove juice from (a fruit or vegetable) • *juice* a lemon/orange

juiced /'ʤu:st/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *US, informal* : very excited : full of energy • The band's fans were *juiced* about the upcoming concert. — often + *up* • He didn't realize just how *juiced up* his opponent would be.

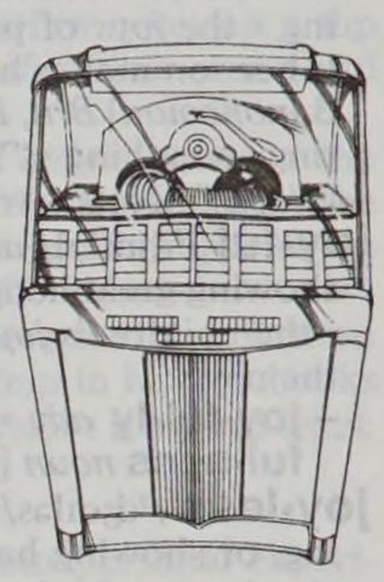
juic·er /'ʤu:sə/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a tool or machine for removing juice from fruit or vegetables • a fruit/lemon *juicer*

juicy /'ʤu:si/ *adj* **juic·i·er**; **-est** [*also more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : containing a lot of juice • The meat is tender and *juicy*. • fresh, *juicy* oranges
2 *informal* : very interesting and exciting especially because of shocking or sexual elements • a *juicy* scandal • a *juicy* bit of news/gossip • I want to know all the *juicy* details.
3 *informal* : involving or providing a large amount of money • a *juicy* [=*fat*] contract • She sued her former boss and won a *juicy* settlement in court.
– **juic·i·ness** /'ʤu:sinəs/ *noun* [*noncount*]

ju·jit·su /ʤu'ʤɪt,su:/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a form of fighting without weapons that was developed in Japan : a Japanese martial art

juke /'ʤu:k/ *verb* **jukes**; **juked**; **juk·ing** *US, sports, informal* : to make a false movement in order to deceive (an opponent) [+ *obj*] He *juked* a couple of defenders and scored. [*no obj*] She *juked* and weaved around the defense. • He *juked* [=*faked*] left and went right.

juke·box /'ʤu:k,bɑ:ks/ *noun, pl* **-box·es** [*count*] : a machine that plays music when money is put into it


jukebox

juke joint *noun, pl* ~ **joints** [*count*] *US, informal* : a cheap bar or club that has a jukebox

Jul. *abbr* July

ju·lep /'ʤu:ləp/ *noun, pl* **-leps** [*count*] : a drink of bourbon, sugar, and mint served with crushed ice • a mint *julep*

ju·li·enne /,ʤu:li'ɛn/ *or* **ju·li·enned** /,ʤu:li'ɛnd/ *adj* : cut into long, thin strips • *julienne* carrots
– **julienne** *noun, pl* **-ennes** [*count*] • a *julienne* of carrots

Ju·ly /ʤʊ'laɪ/ *noun, pl* **-lys** : the seventh month of the year [*noncount*] in (early/middle/mid-/late) *July* • early/late in *July* • They arrived on *July* the first. = (*US*) They arrived on *July* first. = They arrived on the first of *July*. [*count*] Sales are up (for) this *July* in comparison with the previous two *Julys*. • It happens every *July*. — abbr. *Jul.*; see also FOURTH OF JULY

¹jum·ble /'ʤʌmbəl/ *verb* **jum·bles**; **jum·bled**; **jum·bling** [+ *obj*] : to cause (things) to be mixed together in a way that is not neat or orderly — often + *together* • Earrings, bracelets, and necklaces were all *jumbled together* in the box. — often + *up* • He *jumbled* the wires *up* when he moved the TV.
– **jumbled** *adj* • *jumbled* thoughts

²jumble *noun, pl* **jumbles**
1 [*count*] : a group of things that are not arranged in a neat or orderly way • The letters formed a meaningless *jumble*. • a *jumble* of wires • a *jumble* of hats and coats
2 [*noncount*] *Brit* : unwanted things (such as old clothes) that are being sold in an informal sale • a bag/box of *jumble*

jumble sale *noun, pl* ~ **sales** [*count*] *Brit* : RUMMAGE SALE

jum·bo /'ʤʌmboʊ/ *adj, always used before a noun* : very large • The stadium has a *jumbo* TV screen. • *jumbo* shrimp • The soda is sold in small, medium, large, and *jumbo* sizes.

jumbo jet *noun, pl* ~ **jets** [*count*] : a very large airplane that can carry many passengers

¹jump /'ʤʌmp/ *verb* **jumps**; **jumped**; **jump·ing**
1 a [*no obj*] : to move your body upward from the ground and often forward, backward, or sideways through the air by pushing with your legs • The cat *jumped* [=*leaped*] (up) onto the table. • Grasshoppers were *jumping* [=*hopping*] around in the field. • The circus lion *jumped* through the hoop. • The fans were ***jumping up and down*** with excitement. • Everyone was ***jumping for joy*** when we found out that we had won an award. **b** [*no obj*] : to cause your body to drop or fall down from something by pushing with your legs • The cat *jumped* down off/from the table. • *jump* off a bridge **c** : to move forward through the air and over (something) [+ *obj*] The runner *jumped* a hurdle. • The car *jumped* the curb. [*no obj*] — + *over* • The runner *jumped over* a hurdle. • The car *jumped over* the curb.
2 [*no obj*] **a** : to move quickly • Everyone *jumped* into/in the pool. • He *jumped* into/in his truck and drove away. • She *jumped* up on [=quickly got up on] a chair and began to sing the national anthem. • She *jumped* up [=she stood up quickly] and ran out the door. — often used figuratively • The team *jumped* from last place to first place. • If anyone criticizes her husband, she always ***jumps to his defense***. [=she always quickly defends him] • They ***jumped into action***. [=acted immediately] **b** : to make a sudden movement because of surprise or shock • She *jumped* when she heard a loud knock late at night. • I almost ***jumped out of my skin*** when I heard her say my name. [=I was very surprised when I heard her say my name]
3 [*no obj*] : to start or go forward quickly • She *jumped* to an early lead in the race. — sometimes + *off* • She *jumped off* to a big lead.
4 [*no obj*] : to suddenly increase in value or amount • The price of gasoline *jumped* (by) 10 percent in the spring. = Gasoline *jumped* in price by 10 percent in the spring.

5 [*no obj*] **a** : to go in a sudden and unexpected way • She was always *jumping* from job to job. **b** : to suddenly go forward to a later point • He *jumped* to the end of the chapter to find the answers. • The movie *jumps* ahead/forward to when she was in college.

6 [*no obj*] : to be lively with activity • The city really *jumps* on New Year's Eve. • The bar/joint/place was *jumping*.

7 [+ *obj*] : to physically attack (a person) especially in a robbery • He was *jumped* by a mugger while he was walking home from the store.

8 [*no obj*] : to move or behave in an energetic way especially to please another person • When the boss walks in, everybody is supposed to *jump*.

9 [+ *obj*] *chiefly US* : to get onto (a moving train) • *jump* a train

10 [+ *obj*] : to begin moving before (a signal to begin) • The car ahead of me ***jumped the light***. [=started moving before the traffic light turned green]

11 : to move a piece in a board game so that it moves over another piece and lands on the next space [+ *obj*] She *jumped* three of my checkers in one move. [*no obj*] In this version of the game, *jumping* is not permitted. — sometimes + *over* • She *jumped over* three of my checkers.

(go) jump in a/the lake see LAKE

jump all over *informal* : to become very angry at (someone) : to angrily criticize or shout at (someone) • His mother *jumped all over* [=*jumped on*] him for wrecking the car.

jump at [*phrasal verb*] ***jump at (something)*** : to eagerly take (a chance, offer, etc.) • She *jumped at* the chance/opportunity to show her boss what she could do. • He *jumped at* the offer of a better job.

jump bail see ¹BAIL

jump down someone's throat see THROAT

jump in [*phrasal verb*] *informal* : to say something about a subject that another person is already talking about : to join a conversation • *Jump in* if you have any questions.

jump off the page see ¹PAGE

jump on [*phrasal verb*] *informal* **1** ***jump on (someone)*** : to become very angry at (someone) : to angrily criticize or shout at (someone) • The teacher *jumped on* [=*jumped all over*] us for being late. • The coach *jumped on* him for not playing hard enough. **2** ***jump on (something)*** **a** : to strongly attack or criticize (something) • She was quick to *jump on* her rival's poor record as governor. **b** : to get on (a train, bus, etc.) • She *jumped on* [=*hopped*] a bus to Denver. • He *jumped on* a plane and headed home.

jump out at [*phrasal verb*] ***jump out at (someone)*** **1** : to suddenly come at (someone) from a hiding place • The hidden assailant *jumped out at* them. **2** : to immediately get the attention of (someone) • The sculpture *jumps out at* you when you enter the house. • I checked for errors, but nothing *jumped out at* me. [=I did not notice any errors]

jump rope see ¹ROPE

jump ship see ¹SHIP

jump the gun see ¹GUN

jump the queue see ¹QUEUE

jump the track(s) (*US*) *or chiefly Brit* ***jump the rails*** *of a train* : to come off the track • Dozens of people were injured when the train *jumped the track*.

jump through hoops *informal* : to do a complicated or annoying series of things in order to get or achieve something • We had to *jump through* a lot of *hoops* to get a loan from the bank. • It shouldn't be necessary to *jump through hoops* to get a computer to work properly.

jump to conclusions see CONCLUSION

jump to it *informal* : to begin doing something • We don't have much time to finish this job, so we better *jump to it*.

²jump *noun, pl* **jumps**

1 [*count*] : an act of jumping • He got over the fence with a ***running jump***. [=a jump made while running] — see also HIGH JUMP, LONG JUMP

2 [*singular*] : a sudden movement because of surprise or shock — usually used in the phrase ***give a jump*** • He *gave a jump* [=*start*] when she entered the room.

3 [*count*] **a** : something to be jumped over • The horse took/cleared the first *jump* easily but balked at the second. **b** : something (such as a ramp) that you ride over in order to jump through the air on a motorcycle, bicycle, etc. • a motorcycle *jump* — see also SKI JUMP

4 [*count*] : a sudden increase • a *jump* in the price of gasoline • a *jump* in sales

a hop, skip, and (a) jump see ²HOP

get/have/gain a/the jump on : to get or have an early advantage over (someone) by acting quickly or doing something first • The company came out with its software earlier than expected and *got the jump on* its competitors.

one jump ahead ✧ If you are/keep/stay *one jump ahead* of someone, you have or keep an advantage over someone by learning about or doing something new. • The company has continued to be successful because it always *stays one jump ahead* of its competitors.

take a running jump *Brit, informal + impolite* — used to tell someone who angers or annoys you to go away • She told him to (go) *take a running jump*. [=(*US*) *take a flying leap*]

jumped–up /ˌʤʌmpt'ʌp/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *Brit, disapproving* : having a too high opinion of your own importance • She thinks that politicians are all just a bunch of *jumped-up* nobodies.

¹jump•er /'ʤʌmpɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

1 : a person or animal (such as a horse) that jumps • a good *jumper*

2 *basketball* : JUMP SHOT

– compare ²JUMPER

²jumper *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

1 *US* : a type of dress that has no sleeves and that is usually worn with a blouse — called also *pinafore*

2 *Brit* : SWEATER, PULLOVER

– compare ¹JUMPER

jumper cables *noun* [*plural*] *US* : a pair of electrical cables that are used to start a car, truck, etc., when its battery is not working by connecting the battery to another source of power (such as another car's battery) : cables used to jump-start a vehicle

jumping bean *noun, pl* **~ beans** [*count*] : a seed that moves when a small insect moves inside it — called also *Mexican jumping bean*

jumping jack *noun, pl* **~ jacks** [*count*] *US* : an exercise in which a standing person jumps to a position with the legs and arms spread out and then jumps back to the original position • We did a few *jumping jacks* to warm up.

jumping–off point *noun, pl* **~ points** [*count*] : a place or point from which something begins • The essay provides a good *jumping-off point* [=*starting point*] for further discussions. • a *jumping-off point* for a journey — called also *jumping-off place*

jump rope *noun, pl* **~ ropes** *US*

1 [*count*] : a rope used in exercise or a children's game that involves jumping over it when it is swung near the ground — called also (*Brit*) *skipping rope*

2 [*noncount*] : the game of jumping over a jump rope • children playing *jump rope*



jump rope

jump shot *noun, pl* **~ shots** [*count*] : a basketball shot made while jumping • make/sink/hit a *jump shot*

jump–start /'ʤʌmp'stɑɚt/ *verb* **-starts**; **-start•ed**; **-start ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to start (a vehicle whose battery is not working) by connecting its battery to another source of power (such as the battery of another vehicle) • I had to use his truck to *jump-start* my car.

2 a : to cause (something) to start quickly • Advertising can *jump-start* a political campaign. • Publishers often attempt to *jump-start* a new book with TV appearances by the author. **b** : to give new energy to (something) • a plan to *jump-start* the economy

– **jump–start** *noun, pl* **-starts** [*count*] • We had to give the car a *jump-start*. • give the economy a *jump-start*

jump•suit /'ʤʌmpˌsu:t/ *noun, pl* **-suits** [*count*] : a piece of clothing that consists of a blouse or shirt with attached pants or shorts

jumpy /'ʤʌmpi/ *adj* **jump•i•er**; **-est** *informal* : very nervous : easily frightened • trying to calm *jumpy* passengers

Jun. *abbr* June

junc•tion /'ʤʌŋkʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*]

1 : a place where two things join • a *junction* of nerves and muscle

2 a : a place where roads or railroad lines come together • the *junction* of Route 12 and Route 87 • a railroad *junction* **b** *Brit* : a road or ramp that you use when getting off a highway : EXIT

junc•ture /'ʤʌŋkʧɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tures** [*count*]
1 : an important point in a process or activity ▪ Negotiations between the countries reached a critical *juncture*. ▪ At this *juncture* it looks like they are going to get a divorce.
2 : a place where things join : JUNCTION ▪ the *juncture* of two rivers

June /'ʤu:n/ *noun, pl* **Junes** : the sixth month of the year [*noncount*] in (early/middle/mid-/late) *June* ▪ early/late in *June* ▪ They arrived on *June* the first. = (*US*) They arrived on *June* first. = They arrived on the first of *June*. [*count*] Sales are up (for) this *June* in comparison with the previous two *Junes*. ▪ It happens every *June*. — abbr. *Jun*.

jun•gle /'ʤʌŋgəl/ *noun, pl* **jun•gles** [*count*]
1 : a tropical forest where plants and trees grow very thickly ▪ a dense *jungle* ▪ *jungle* wildlife
2 : a harsh or dangerous place or situation in which people struggle for survival or success ▪ the asphalt/concrete/urban *jungle* [=the city] ▪ life in the corporate *jungle* ▪ It's hard to succeed in the business world. It's a *jungle* out there.
3 : a confusing or complex mixture of things ▪ a *jungle* of alleys ▪ a *jungle* of environmental laws
the law of the jungle see LAW

jungle gym *noun, pl* ~ **gyms** [*count*] *US* : a structure of metal bars for children to climb on

[1]ju•nior /'ʤu:njɚ/ *adj*
1 *not used before a noun, US* **a** : younger in age ▪ He is six years *junior* to me. = He is *junior* to me by six years. [=he is six years younger than I am] **b** — used chiefly in its abbreviated form *Jr.* to identify a son who has the same name as his father ▪ John Smith *Jr.* and John Smith Sr. — compare SENIOR
2 *always used before a noun* : lower in standing or rank ▪ She is a *junior* partner in the law firm. ▪ a *junior* army officer — compare SENIOR
3 *always used before a noun* : designed for or done by young people ▪ *junior* hockey/tennis

[2]junior *noun, pl* **-niors** [*count*]
1 : a person who is younger than another person ▪ He is six years my *junior*. [=he is six years younger than I am] — compare SENIOR
2 : a person who is of a lower rank than another person ▪ They are my *juniors* in rank. — compare SENIOR
3 a *US* : a student in the third of four years in a high school or college ▪ She's a *junior* at the state college. — often used before another noun ▪ the *junior* class ▪ the *junior* prom — compare FRESHMAN, SOPHOMORE, SENIOR **b** *Brit* : a student at a junior school
4 *US, informal* — used like a name for a male child or son ▪ They love to bring *junior* to the park. ▪ How did you do on the exam, *junior*?

junior college *noun, pl* ~ **-leges** [*count*] *US* : a school that has two years of studies similar to those in the first two years of a four-year college

junior high school *noun, pl* ~ **schools** [*count*] *US* : a school usually including the seventh, eighth, and sometimes ninth grades — called also *junior high*; compare HIGH SCHOOL, MIDDLE SCHOOL, SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

junior school *noun, pl* ~ **schools** [*count*] *Brit* : a school for children aged 7 to 11

junior varsity *noun, pl* ~ **-ties** [*count, noncount*] *US* : a team whose members are less experienced and usually younger than members on a varsity team

ju•ni•per /'ʤu:nəpɚ/ *noun, pl* **-pers** [*count, noncount*] : an evergreen shrub or tree that has tiny fruits that look like berries

[1]junk /'ʤʌŋk/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 a : old things that have been thrown away or that have little value ▪ a *junk* collector ▪ The yard was cluttered with *junk* like broken bicycles and old washing machines. **b** : something that is in very poor condition ▪ That car is *junk*. = That car is a piece of *junk*. **c** : material that has no real value or interest ▪ There's nothing but *junk* on TV tonight. ▪ movies that fill people's minds with *junk*
2 *slang* : HEROIN
– compare [2]JUNK

[2]junk *noun, pl* **junks** [*count*] : an Asian boat that is high in the front and has four-cornered sails — compare [1]JUNK

[3]junk *verb* **junks**; **junked**; **junk•ing** [+ *obj*] *informal* : to get rid of (something) because it is worthless, damaged, etc. ▪ We decided to *junk* our old computer and buy a new one. ▪ *junk* an old car — sometimes used figuratively ▪ They had to *junk* [=*scrap*] their vacation plans when their son got sick.

junk bond *noun, pl* ~ **bonds** [*count*] *business* : a type of bond that pays high interest but also has a high risk

junk e–mail *noun* [*noncount*] : SPAM

junk•er /'ʤʌŋkɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *US, informal* : an old car, truck, etc., that is in very poor condition ▪ I can't believe he's still driving that old *junker*.

jun•ket /'ʤʌŋkət/ *noun, pl* **-kets** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a trip or journey that is paid for by someone else: such as **a** : a trip made by a government official and paid for by the public ▪ The senator has been criticized for expensive *junkets* to foreign countries. **b** : a free trip by a member of the press to a place where something (such as a new movie) is being promoted ▪ a film's press *junket*

junk food *noun, pl* ~ **foods** *informal* : food that is not good for your health because it contains high amounts of fat or sugar [*noncount*] worrying about kids eating too much *junk food* [*count*] eating too many *junk foods*

junk•ie *also* **junky** /'ʤʌŋki/ *noun, pl* **junk•ies** [*count*] *informal*
1 : a person who uses illegal drugs : a drug addict ▪ a heroin *junkie*
2 : a person who gets an unusual amount of pleasure from or has an unusual amount of interest in something ▪ a news *junkie* ▪ a political *junkie* [=a fan of politics] ▪ a sugar *junkie*

junk mail *noun* [*noncount*] : mail that is not wanted : mail that consists mostly of advertising ▪ bombarded with *junk mail*

[1]junky /'ʤʌŋki/ *adj* **junk•i•er**; **-est** *chiefly US, informal* : of very poor quality ▪ *junky* furniture

[2]junky *variant spelling of* JUNKIE

junk•yard /'ʤʌŋkˌjɑɚd/ *noun, pl* **-yards** [*count*] : a place where you can buy, sell, or leave junk ▪ The car was hauled off to the *junkyard*.

jun•ta /'hʊntə/ *noun, pl* **-tas** [*count*] : a military group controlling a government after taking control of it by force ▪ a military *junta*

Ju•pi•ter /'ʤu:pətɚ/ *noun* [*singular*] : the planet that is fifth in order from the sun and that is the largest of the planets

ju•ris•dic•tion /ˌʤɚrəs'dɪkʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**
1 [*noncount*] : the power or right to make judgments about the law, to arrest and punish criminals, etc. ▪ The court has *jurisdiction* over most criminal offenses. ▪ His attorney claimed the court lacked *jurisdiction* in this matter. ▪ The matter falls outside/within the *jurisdiction* of this court.
synonyms see [1]POWER
2 [*noncount*] : the power or right to govern an area ▪ territory under the *jurisdiction* of the federal government
3 [*count*] : an area within which a particular system of laws is used ▪ He was arrested in another *jurisdiction*.
– **ju•ris•dic•tion•al** /ˌʤɚrəs'dɪkʃənl/ *adj*

ju•ris•pru•dence /ˌʤɚrəs'pru:dəns/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : the study of law ▪ a professor of *jurisprudence*

ju•rist /'ʤɚrɪst/ *noun, pl* **-rists** [*count*] : a person who has a thorough knowledge of law; *especially* : [1]JUDGE 1

ju•ror /'ʤɚrɚ/ *noun, pl* **-rors** [*count*] : a member of a jury

ju•ry /'ʤɚri/ *noun, pl* **-ries** [*count*]
1 : a group of people who are members of the public and are chosen to make a decision in a legal case ▪ The *jury* failed to reach a verdict. ▪ The *jury* found the defendant guilty/innocent. = The *jury* returned a verdict of guilty/innocent. ▪ She was selected to serve/sit on a *jury*. ▪ (*US*) She was selected for ***jury duty***. = (*Brit*) She was selected for ***jury service***. ▪ I demand my right to a ***trial by jury***. = I demand my right to a ***jury trial***. [=a trial that is decided by a jury] — see also GRAND JURY, HUNG JURY
2 : a group of people who decide the winners in a contest ▪ The *jury* [=*judges*] found her pie to be the best.
jury is out *informal* ✧ If you say ***the jury is still out on*** something, you mean that something has not yet been decided or has not yet become clear. ▪ The *jury is still out on* whether the new company will succeed. [=no one knows yet whether the new company will succeed]

jury panel *noun, pl* ~ **-els** [*count*] *US* : [1]PANEL 1c

ju•ry–rig /'ʤɚriˌrɪg/ *verb* **-rigs**; **-rigged**; **-rig•ging** [+ *obj*] *chiefly US* : to build or put together (a simple device or structure) using the materials that you have available ▪ He *jury-rigged* a new antenna out of coat hangers.
– **jury–rigged** *adj* ▪ a *jury-rigged* antenna

[1]just /'ʤʌst/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal*
1 a : agreeing with what is considered morally right or good

: FAIR • a *just* society • a *just* cause for war • a *just* decision **b** : treating people in a way that is considered morally right • a *just* man

2 a : reasonable or proper • The college treated the allegation with *just* seriousness. **b** : deserved and appropriate • They got their *just* punishment for the crime. • a *just* reward • We all want to see this criminal get his ***just deserts***. [=get the punishment that he deserves]

– **just•ly** *adv* • She is *justly* [=*properly*] admired for her charitable work. – **just•ness** /ˈʤʌstnəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] • the *justness* of their decision

²just *adv*

1 : to an exact degree or in an exact manner • You look *just* [=*exactly*] like your father. • The store has *just* the tool you need. • That's *just* what I expected. • You have to accept me *just* as I am. • This shirt fits *just* right. • She called him a liar and told him he was *just* like all the other men she'd met. • It's *just* like you to be jealous every time I speak to another woman. [=you're always jealous when I speak to another woman] — see also *just my luck* at ¹LUCK

2 a : very recently • The bell *just* rang. • He was *just* here a minute ago. • She had *just* returned when he entered. • She has *just* acted in her first play. = (*chiefly US*) She *just* acted in her first play. • I've *just* been trying to call you! = (*chiefly US*) I was *just* trying to call you! **b** : at this or that exact moment or time • I was *just* going to telephone you! • She's *just* finishing a letter, and she'll be with you shortly. **c** — used to say that two or more events are happening at the same time or with very little time between them • He confessed *just* before he died. • The phone rang *just* as/when we were leaving. • I came ***just as soon*** as I heard the news. **d** — used to emphasize that a moment or time is not far from the present moment • She'll be back in *just* a minute. [=she'll be back very soon] • I saw her here *just* yesterday.

3 a : by a small amount • I had *just* [=*barely*] enough time to eat breakfast before leaving. • I arrived *just* in time to see him win. • We could (only) *just* see the ship coming over the horizon. • The horse's time for the race was *just* short of the record. = The horse *just* missed breaking the record. • It should take us *just* [=*slightly*] under/over an hour to get there. **b** : by a small distance • She lives *just* west of here. • The bathroom is *just* down the hall. • *Just* [=*directly*] across from the bank is a hotel. • The restaurant is *just* around the corner. — see also *just around the corner* at ¹CORNER

4 a : nothing more than : ONLY • This is *just* [=*simply*] a note to say I love you. • He is *just* an assistant to the manager. • She was *just* a baby when her father went off to war. • Is it *just* a coincidence that I see him everywhere I go? • He has *just* two months left before his retirement. • "Will you have another drink?" "Well, perhaps *just* (the) one." • I don't know him well: I've met him *just* (the) once. [=I've met him only one time] • "Who is she?" "Oh, *just* somebody who works in the same office as me." • I love *just* you and nobody else but you. • She'll be away from her desk for *just* a few minutes. = She'll *just* be away from her desk for a few minutes. • They took a nice field and turned it into ***just another*** shopping mall. • He's *just another* guy trying to get rich without working too hard. **b** — used to stress the simple truth of a description or statement • We'd like to buy a new car. We *just* [=*simply*] don't have enough money. • Sometimes a person *just* wants to be left alone. • She *just* wanted to say goodbye. • You'll *just* have to be patient. • I'm sorry if I seem grouchy. I'm *just* tired. • The wedding was *just* wonderful. • I feel *just* great! • The kids want to camp in the backyard, ***just for fun***. [=simply to have fun] **c** — used in polite requests • Could I *just* borrow that pen for a minute? Thanks! • Would you *just* step this way, please, ladies and gentlemen. **d** — used for emphasis when you give an order or make a suggestion • Why don't we *just* forget the whole thing. • *Just* hold on a minute! Did you say you'd solved the problem?! • *Just* [=*simply*] tell him you don't feel like going out. • *Just* (you) wait until your father sees this mess, young lady! • Don't argue with me: *just* do it! • *Just* imagine how silly she'll feel when she realizes that she was wrong. • *Just* look at the size of that thing! • *Just* think how happy we could be. **e** — used to describe what someone does instead of doing what is necessary or expected • Don't *just* stand there: do something! • She *just* stood there watching as he walked away. • I can't *just* pretend nothing happened.

5 — used with words like *might* and *may* to refer to something that is possible • I know you don't expect him to succeed, but he might *just* surprise you. [=he might succeed] • It's a crazy idea, but it *just* might work! • You know, you *just* might be right about that.

6 *Brit, informal* : INDEED • Isn't the city hot, *just*!

just about : almost or nearly • It was *just about* time to leave. • The work is *just about* done. • That is *just about* the biggest horse I have ever seen. [=that is a very big horse] • That is *just about* the stupidest thing she has ever done.

just a minute/second/moment **1** — used to ask someone to wait or stop briefly • *Just a second* and I will get that book for you. **2** — used to demand that someone stop or listen • *Just a minute*, young lady! You can't park there!

just anyone : any person at all • I don't lend money to *just anyone*.

just as : to an equal degree as • Our house is *just as* nice as theirs. • This one is *just as* good as that one. • She performs *just as* well as he does. : in the same way as • *Just as* we hope to be forgiven, so we should forgive others. • *Just as* I thought/suspected, the door is locked. [=I thought that the door would be locked, and it is]

just as soon ✧ If you would *just as soon* do something, you would prefer to do it. • We asked him to come with us, but he said he'd *just as soon* stay home.

just as well ✧ If it is *just as well* that something happens, then it is a good thing, even if it was not expected or intended. • It's *just as well* she didn't get that job, since she will now be closer to home. • I really didn't want to stay home this weekend, but it's *just as well*. I have a lot to do.

just because see BECAUSE

just like that : very suddenly • The girl vanished *just like that*. • *Just like that* it started raining.

just now *or* ***just this minute/second*** **1** : a moment ago • I saw him *just now*. • I was *just this minute* thinking about calling you. **2** : at this moment • They are *just now* heading out the door.

just on *Brit, informal* : EXACTLY • It was *just on* midnight.

just so : in a particular way • They feel they have to dress *just so* to be popular. : arranged in a very neat and tidy way • Everything in her house has to be *just so* or she gets upset. [=everything has to be exactly as she likes it]

just the same see ²SAME

just the thing : the best or perfect thing • I have *just the thing* for your hair.

just yet : right now — used in negative constructions to say that something is not done yet or true yet but will be soon • I don't have the table finished *just yet*. • "Are you ready to leave?" "Not *just yet*."

not just — used to say that one thing is true and that another thing is also true • She's *not just* my friend, she's my lawyer.

jus•tice /ˈʤʌstəs/ *noun, pl* **-tic•es**

1 [*noncount*] : the process or result of using laws to fairly judge and punish crimes and criminals • They received *justice* in court. • the *justice* system • the U.S. Department of *Justice* • criminals attempting to escape *justice* • The role of the courts is to dispense *justice* fairly to everyone. • Many people do not believe that ***justice has been served/done*** in his case. [=that he has been given proper punishment or fair treatment by the legal system] • His supporters claim that he is an innocent man and that his conviction was a ***miscarriage of justice***. [=an error made in a court of law that results in an innocent person being punished or a guilty person being freed] ✧ Someone who is ***brought to justice*** is arrested and punished for a crime in a court of law. • The police couldn't *bring* the killer *to justice*. — see also POETIC JUSTICE

2 a [*count*] *US* : a judge in a court of law • She is a *justice* of the state supreme court. — see also CHIEF JUSTICE **b** ***Justice*** — used as a title for a judge (such as a judge of the U.S. Supreme Court) • *Justice* Marshall

3 [*noncount*] **a** : the quality of being fair or just • a sense of *justice* • I saw no *justice* in the court's decision. **b** : fair treatment • We should strive to achieve *justice* for all people.

do justice ✧ To ***do justice to something or someone*** or to ***do someone or something justice*** is to treat or show something or someone in a way that is as good as it should be. • Words could never *do justice to* her beauty. [=could not adequately describe her beauty] • The movie does not *do justice to* the book. = The movie does not *do* the book *justice*. [=the movie is not as good as the book] • a brief summary that does not *do justice to* [=does not adequately show] the complexity of this issue

J

obstruction of justice see OBSTRUCTION
pervert the course of justice see ¹PERVERT

justice of the peace *noun, pl* **justices of the peace** [*count*] : a local official who has the power to decide minor legal cases and in the U.S. to perform marriages — abbr. *J.P.*

jus·ti·fi·ca·tion /ˌʤʌstəfəˈkeɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** : an acceptable reason for doing something : something that justifies an action [*count*] He tried to present a *justification* for his behavior. • There is no possible *justification* for what she did. [*noncount*] His behavior is without *justification*. • He told lies ***in justification of*** his behavior. [=in order to make people think that his behavior was reasonable] • She noted ***with some justification*** that other people had experienced similar problems. [=it was not unreasonable of her to note that other people had experienced similar problems]

jus·ti·fy /ˈʤʌstəˌfaɪ/ *verb* **-fies**; **-fied**; **-fy·ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to provide or be a good reason for (something) : to prove or show (something) to be just, right, or reasonable • He tried to *justify* his behavior by saying that he was being pressured unfairly by his boss. • The fact that we are at war does not *justify* treating innocent people as criminals. • It's hard to *justify* the cost of a new car right now. = It's hard to *justify* spending money on a new car right now. — see also *the end justifies the means* at ¹END
2 : to provide a good reason for the actions of (someone) • Why should I have to ***justify myself*** [=to provide an explanation for my actions] when it was their fault?
3 *technical* : to position (text) so that the edges form a straight line
– **jus·ti·fi·able** /ˈʤʌstəˌfajəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] • They felt *justifiable* pride in their son. • *justifiable* expenses – **jus·ti·fi·ably** /ˈʤʌstəˌfajəbli/ *adv* • were *justifiably* proud – **justified** *adj, not used before a noun* [*more* ~; *most* ~] • She was (perfectly/fully) *justified* in complaining to her boss. [=she had a good reason for complaining to her boss]

jut /ˈʤʌt/ *verb* **juts**; **jut·ted**; **jut·ting** : to stick out, up, or forward [*no obj*] mountains *jutting* into the sky — often + *out* • The peninsula *juts out* [=*projects*] into the bay. • The edge of the roof *juts out* a few feet. [+ *obj*] — usually + *out* • He *jutted out* his jaw in defiance.

jute /ˈʤuːt/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a natural fiber that is used for making rope and cloth

¹ju·ve·nile /ˈʤuːvəˌnajəl/ *adj*
1 [*more* ~; *most* ~] *disapproving* : unpleasantly childish : IMMATURE • She criticized his *juvenile* behavior at the party. • *juvenile* pranks
2 *always used before a noun* **a** : relating to or meant for young people • *juvenile* fiction **b** : of or relating to young people who have committed crimes • the *juvenile* justice system • a *juvenile* court • a *juvenile* crime [=a crime committed by a young person]
3 : not yet fully grown • *juvenile* birds/animals

²juvenile *noun, pl* **-niles** [*count*]
1 : a young person : a person who is not yet old enough to be legally considered an adult • She works to keep *juveniles* away from drugs. • crimes committed by *juveniles*
2 : a young bird or animal

juvenile delinquent *noun, pl* ~ **-quents** [*count*] : a young person who has committed a crime
– **juvenile delinquency** *noun* [*noncount*]

jux·ta·pose /ˈʤʌkstəˌpoʊz/ *verb* **-pos·es**; **-posed**; **-pos·ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to place (different things) together in order to create an interesting effect or to show how they are the same or different • a display that *juxtaposes* modern art with classical art
– **jux·ta·po·si·tion** /ˌʤʌkstəpəˈzɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count, noncount*] • an interesting *juxtaposition* of colors

K

k *or* **K** /ˈkeɪ/ *noun, pl* **k's** *or* **ks** *or* **K's** *or* **Ks**
1 : the 11th letter of the English alphabet [*count*] There is one *k* in "book." [*noncount*] The word ends in *k*.
2 *pl* ***K*** [*count*] **a** *informal* : THOUSAND • She earned a salary of $30*K*. • The car costs $35*K*. **b** *computers* : KILOBYTE • The program uses 350*K* of disk space.
3 [*count*] *baseball, informal* : STRIKEOUT • The pitcher had more than 10 *Ks* in his last game.

K *abbr* **1** Kelvin • a temperature of 200 degrees *K* **2** kilometer • a 5*K* run **3** *or* ***k*** karat

kabob *variant spelling of* KEBAB

Ka·bu·ki /kəˈbuːki/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a traditional form of Japanese entertainment with singing and dancing

kaftan *variant spelling of* CAFTAN

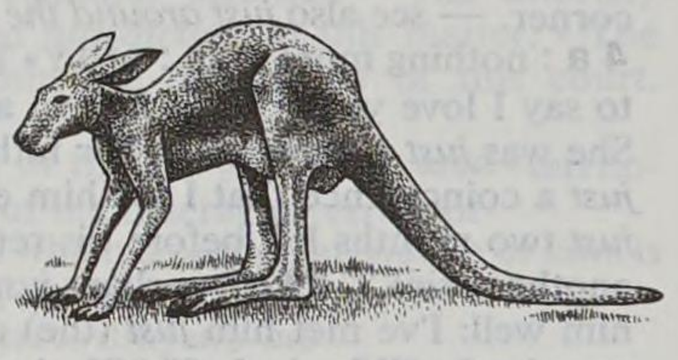
kai·ser /ˈkaɪzɚ/ *noun, pl* **-sers** [*count*] : the title of the ruler of Germany from 1871 to 1918 • *Kaiser* Wilhelm

kale /ˈkeɪl/ *noun, pl* **kales** [*count, noncount*] : a type of cabbage that has wrinkled leaves — see color picture on page C4

ka·lei·do·scope /kəˈlaɪdəˌskoʊp/ *noun, pl* **-scopes**
1 [*count*] : a tube that has mirrors and loose pieces of colored glass or plastic inside at one end so that you see many different patterns when you turn the tube while looking in through the other end
2 [*singular*] **a** : a changing pattern or scene • The landscape was a *kaleidoscope* of changing colors. **b** : a mixture of many different things • a *kaleidoscope* of flavors
– **ka·lei·do·scop·ic** /kəˌlaɪdəˈskɑːpɪk/ *adj* • *kaleidoscopic* patterns/variety

ka·mi·ka·ze /ˌkɑːmɪˈkɑːzi, *Brit* ˌkæmɪˈkɑːzi/ *noun, pl* **-zes** [*count*] : one of a group of Japanese pilots in World War II who were assigned to crash their planes into their targets — usually used before another noun • a *kamikaze* pilot • a *kamikaze* attack/mission — often used figuratively • *kamikaze* drivers [=reckless drivers]

kan·ga·roo /ˌkæŋgəˈruː/ *noun, pl* **-roos** [*count*] : an Australian animal that moves by hopping on its powerful rear legs ✧ The female kangaroo has a pouch in which the young are carried.


kangaroo

kangaroo court *noun, pl* ~ **courts** [*count*] : a court that uses unfair methods or is not a proper court of law

ka·put /kəˈpʊt/ *adj, not used before a noun, informal*
1 : no longer working • Our washing machine is *kaput*. [=*broken*] • Our washing machine was working perfectly, and then suddenly it ***went kaput***. [=it broke]
2 : no longer able to continue : completely ruined or defeated • His career is *kaput*. [=*finished, over*]

kar·a·o·ke /ˌkeriˈoʊki/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a form of entertainment in which a device plays the music of popular songs and people sing the words to the songs they choose • That bar has *karaoke* on Saturday night. — often used before another noun • a *karaoke* bar/club/machine • *karaoke* music

kar·at (*US*) *or chiefly Brit* **car·at** /ˈkerət/ *noun, pl* **-ats** [*count*] : a unit for measuring how pure a piece of gold is • She was wearing an 18 *karat* gold bracelet. • Pure gold is 24 *karats*. — abbr. *K* or *k*

ka·ra·te /kəˈrɑːti/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a form of fighting that was developed in Japan in which your feet and hands are used to kick and hit an opponent : a Japanese martial art — often used before another noun • *karate* chops/kicks

kar·ma /ˈkɑɚmə/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 *often* ***Karma*** : the force created by a person's actions that is believed in Hinduism and Buddhism to determine what that person's next life will be like
2 *informal* : the force created by a person's actions that some people believe causes good or bad things to happen to that person • She believes that helping people produces good *karma*.

ka•ty•did /ˈkeɪtɪˌdɪd/ *noun, pl* **-dids** [*count*] *US* : a large green insect that looks like a large grasshopper

kay•ak /ˈkaɪˌæk/ *noun, pl* **-aks** [*count*] : a long narrow boat that is pointed at both ends and that is moved by a paddle with two blades — see picture at BOAT; compare CANOE

ka•zoo /kəˈzu:/ *noun, pl* **-zoos** [*count*] : a toy musical instrument that is shaped like a short tube and that produces a buzzing sound when you hum into the smaller end of the tube • play a *kazoo*

KB *abbr* kilobyte

KC *abbr, Brit* King's Counsel

ke•bab /kəˈbɑ:b, *Brit* kəˈbæb/ *also chiefly US* **ka•bob** /kəˈbɑ:b/ *noun, pl* **ke•babs** *also* **ka•bobs** [*count*] : a dish made by pushing a long, thin stick (called a skewer) through pieces of meat and vegetables and cooking them on a grill — called also *shish kebab*

[1]keel /ˈki:l/ *noun, pl* **keels** [*count*] : a long piece of wood or metal along the center of the bottom of a boat — see picture at BOAT

on an even keel : strong and not likely to fail or get worse : in a stable condition • They struggled to keep the company *on an even keel* during its early years. • I'm trying to get back *on an even keel* [=to return to a normal life] now that the lawsuit is settled.

[2]keel *verb* **keels; keeled; keel•ing**

keel over [*phrasal verb*] *informal* : to fall down suddenly • He just *keeled over* and died. We found out later that he'd had a heart attack. • I almost *keeled over* with/in laughter.

[1]keen /ˈki:n/ *adj* **keen•er; -est** [*also more ~; most ~*]

1 : having or showing an ability to think clearly and to understand what is not obvious or simple about something • a *keen* intellect/intelligence/mind • She's a very *keen* observer of the political world. • She made some *keen* [=*acute*] observations. • a *keen* wit

2 : very strong and sensitive : highly developed • The dog has a *keen* sense of smell. = The dog has a *keen* nose. • *keen* [=*acute*] eyesight/hearing • She had a *keen* awareness of what was happening. [=she knew exactly what was happening] • She has a ***keen ear*** for languages. [=she is able to easily learn and understand languages] • He has a ***keen eye*** for details. [=he is good at noticing details]

3 a : very excited about and interested in something • She's a *keen* tennis player. = She's *keen* about tennis. • He's a *keen* student of art history. = He has a *keen* interest in art history.

b : feeling a strong and impatient desire *to do* something • He is *keen* [=*eager*] *to learn* more about art history.

4 : strong or intense • After his death, she felt a *keen* [=*profound*] sense of loss. • The two firms are in *keen* competition. • (*chiefly Brit*) a *keen* wind

5 *informal + old-fashioned* : very good : WONDERFUL • Gee, that's *keen*. ✧ This sense is now usually used in a playful or ironic way. — see also PEACHY KEEN

6 *literary* : having a sharp edge or point • a *keen* knife/sword

7 *Brit, of a price* : very low • They sell reliable products at very *keen* prices.

(as) keen as mustard *Brit* : very excited and interested : very enthusiastic • I gave him the job because he was willing to learn and seemed *as keen as mustard*.

keen on **1** : very excited about and interested in (something) • She's very *keen on* tennis. • I'm not *keen on* that idea. [=I don't like that idea] • (*Brit*) He's ***mad keen on*** golf.

2 *chiefly Brit* : interested in or attracted to (someone) • He's been very *keen on* her since they met at my party.

– keen•ly *adv* • They were *keenly* interested in how well I was doing. • a *keenly* felt change • The parents were *keenly* aware of the teacher's importance. **– keen•ness** /ˈki:nnəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] The *keenness* of the saw made cutting the board easier. [*singular*] a *keenness* of sight

[2]keen *verb* **keens; keened; keen•ing** [*no obj*] *old-fashioned + literary* : to make a loud and long cry of sorrow • mourners *keening* at a funeral

[1]keep /ˈki:p/ *verb* **keeps; kept** /ˈkɛpt/; **keep•ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to continue having or holding (something) : to not return, lose, sell, give away, or throw away (something) • She's going to *keep* the money she found. • I can't decide whether to sell my old car or *keep* it for another year. • While the company laid off some employees, others had hopes of *keeping* their jobs. • The shirt will *keep* [=*retain*] its shape after many washings. • an actress who has *kept* her looks/beauty [=continued to be attractive/beautiful] as she has grown older • "The fare is $4." "Here's $5. ***Keep the change.***" • He struggled to ***keep his cool/composure*** [=to remain calm; to not become upset or angry] • He vowed to ***keep his silence*** about what he had seen. [=to not tell anyone about what he had seen]

2 a [*linking verb*] : to continue in a specified state, condition, or position • I asked them to *keep* quiet. • *keep* still/warm • He vowed to *keep* silent about what he had seen. [=to not tell anyone about what he had seen] • She likes to *keep* [=*stay*] busy. • The program teaches kids how to *keep* safe near water. • Have you ***kept in touch*** with your college roommate? [=have you continued to talk to or write to your college roommate?] **b** [+ *obj*] : to cause (someone or something) to continue in a specified state, condition, or position • I tried to *keep* the children quiet during the ceremony. • The local newspaper *keeps* people informed about what's happening in town. • The article offers tips on how to *keep* kids safe near water. • The movie will *keep* you on the edge of your seat. • We need to *keep* costs under control. • This scarf will help *keep* you warm. • She *keeps* herself fit by jogging. • He *kept* his hands behind his back while we were talking. • *Keep* both hands on the steering wheel. • It was so cold inside that I *kept* my coat on. • I promise I'll *keep* your decision a secret. [=I will not tell anyone your decision] • *Keep* the mixture chilled until you are ready to serve it.

3 [+ *obj*] **a** : to cause or force (someone) to stay in a place • I won't *keep* you (here) much longer. • The doctors want to *keep* me in (the hospital) for further tests. • If you're in a hurry, don't let me *keep* you. • *keep* a prisoner in jail • She *kept* the children in the house during the storm. • There was nothing to *keep* me in the city. **b** : to cause (someone) to be late • You're late. ***What kept you?*** [=what delayed you?; why are you late?]

4 [+ *obj*] **a** : to do (something) continuously or again and again — + *-ing verb* • The teacher asked them to be quiet, but they just *kept talking*. • The rain *kept falling* all afternoon. • The dog *keeps running* away. • *Keep walking/driving* until you come to a traffic light. — often + *on* • The band's music just *keeps on getting* better (and better). • I'll never get this work done if you *keep on interrupting* me. **b** : to cause (someone or something) to do something continuously or again and again — + *-ing verb* • She has a desire for success that *keeps* her *striving* to do better. • His boss *kept* him *waiting* [=forced him to wait] for over an hour. • They want to *keep* the company *growing*. — see also KEEP GOING (below)

5 [+ *obj*] **a** : to do what is required by (something, such as a promise) • She always *keeps* her promises/word. [=she always does what she promises to do; she always does what she says she will do] • He failed to *keep* his appointment. [=he did not go to his appointment; he missed his appointment] **b** : to not tell (a secret) • I can *keep* a secret. • a ***poorly kept*** secret [=a secret that has been told to many people] • a ***well-kept*** secret [=a secret that has not been told to people] **c** *somewhat formal* : to act properly in relation to (something) • He *keeps* [=*observes*] the Sabbath. • They *keep* kosher.

6 [+ *obj*] **a** : to store (something) in a specified place • They *keep* the ketchup in the refrigerator. • I *keep* my socks in a drawer. • The sheets are *kept* in the closet. • He *keeps* his wallet in his back pocket. **b** : to have or hold (something) for later use instead of using it now • We'll eat some of the cookies now and *keep* [=*save*] some for later. • I'll *keep* my news until later. [=I'll tell you my news later] • (*Brit*) Would you *keep* [=(*US*) *save*] a seat for me?

7 [*no obj*] *of food* : to continue to be in a good condition • Carrots and potatoes *keep* well. • The meat will *keep* in the freezer for several months. — sometimes used figuratively • I have something to tell you, but it will *keep*. [=I can tell you later]

8 [+ *obj*] *formal* : to protect (someone) • May the Lord bless you and *keep* you. — usually + *from* • May the Lord *keep* you *from* harm.

9 [+ *obj*] : to produce (something, such as a journal or record) by putting information in a book, document, etc., over a period of time • She *kept* a diary/journal. • He *keeps* a detailed record of all his purchases. • She *keeps* a list of books for future reading.

10 [+ *obj*] **a** : to take care of (something) • *keep* [=*tend*] a garden • We *kept* chickens and goats when I was a child. **b** : to operate (something, such as a business) : MANAGE • They *keep* [=(more commonly) *run*] a bed-and-breakfast. • (*chiefly Brit*) *keep* a shop

11 [+ *obj*] *somewhat old-fashioned* **a** : to have (something) available for use • He *keeps* a car even though he lives in the city. **b** : to have a continuing sexual relationship with (someone who is not your husband or wife) • a married man

K

who *keeps* a mistress ▪ She never married but she *kept* a lover for years. ▪ a ***kept man/woman*** [=a man/woman who is kept as a lover by someone]

How are you keeping? *Brit* — used to ask if someone feels good, bad, happy, well, etc. ▪ *"How are you keeping* [=*how are you doing*], Jill?" "Oh, pretty well, thanks."

keep after [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***keep after (someone)*** *informal* : to tell (someone) again and again to do something ▪ My kids *kept after* me to quit smoking, so I finally did. ▪ I wasn't going to audition, but my friends *kept after* me. **2** ***keep (someone) after*** *US* : to require (a student) to stay at school after classes have ended ▪ The teacher *kept* him *after* (school) for misbehaving in class.

keep at [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***keep at it*** : to continue doing or trying to do something ▪ If you *keep at it* long enough you'll succeed. ▪ The project was difficult, but we *kept at it* and eventually it was done. **2** ***keep (someone) at it*** : to force or cause (someone) to continue doing something ▪ The coach *kept* us (hard) *at it* until late afternoon.

keep back [*phrasal verb*] **1** : to not go near something ▪ The police asked the spectators to *keep back*. [=*stay back*] ▪ The guide told us to *keep back* from the edge of the cliff. **2** ***keep (someone) back*** *or* ***keep back (someone)*** **a** : to not allow (someone) to go near something ▪ The police *kept* the spectators *back*. **b** *US* : to not allow (a student) to advance to the next grade level — usually used as *(be) kept back* ▪ Students who fail the exam may *be kept back* a year. **c** *Brit* : to require (a student) to stay at school after classes have ended ▪ She was *kept back* [=(*US*) *kept after*, *kept after school*] for talking in class. **3** ***keep (something) back*** *or* ***keep back (something)*** : to not allow (something) to appear or be known ▪ He struggled to *keep back* his tears. [=he tried hard not to cry] ▪ The government *kept back* [=*withheld*] some crucial information from the media.

keep company [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***keep company with (someone)*** : to spend time with (someone) — usually used figuratively ▪ In her garden, roses *keep company with* lilies. **2** ***keep (someone) company*** : to spend time with (someone who would be alone if you were not there) ▪ I'll *keep you company* while you wait for the train.

keep down [*phrasal verb*] **1** : to stay close to the ground or floor ▪ The soldiers were ordered to *keep down*. [=*stay down*] **2** ***keep (someone) down*** : to prevent (someone) from succeeding, winning, etc. ▪ You can't *keep* a good man *down*. [=you can't prevent a good or talented person from succeeding] **3** ***keep (something) down*** *or* ***keep down (something)*** **a** : to prevent (something) from increasing or rising ▪ The company is trying to *keep down* costs/expenses/prices. ▪ She watered the path to *keep* the dust *down*. **b** : to prevent (something) from coming up from your stomach and into your mouth again ▪ He was so ill that he could only *keep down* a small amount of food. **4** ***keep it down*** — used to ask someone to be quiet ▪ Please *keep it down* in there. I'm trying to study.

keep from [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***keep from (doing something)*** *or* ***keep (someone or something) from (doing something)*** : to not do or experience (something) : to prevent or stop (someone or something) from doing or experiencing (something) ▪ She found it hard to *keep from* laughing. [=she found it hard not to laugh] ▪ She's been trying to *keep* herself *from* eating too much candy. ▪ An umbrella will *keep* you *from* getting wet. ▪ It's difficult to *keep from* feeling worried about this situation. ▪ He was anxious to *keep* his son *from* getting into trouble. ▪ Her happy nature *kept* her *from* worrying. ▪ I don't want to *keep* you *from* (doing) your work. = I don't want to *keep* you *from* working. ▪ She tied the knot tightly to *keep* it *from* loosening. ▪ The company has taken steps to *keep* the building *from* being broken into again. ▪ It was hard to *keep from* [=*avoid*] confusing the twins. **2** ***keep (something) from (someone)*** : to not tell (something) to (someone) ▪ What information are you *keeping from* me? [=what information are you not telling me?] ▪ They think the government is *keeping* [=*withholding*] the truth *from* us.

keep going [*phrasal verb*] **1** : to continue moving forward ▪ He walked right past me and just *kept going*. **2** : to continue doing something ▪ I was ready to give up on the search, but they convinced me to *keep going*. [=to continue searching] **3** ***keep (someone) going*** : to make (someone) able to continue doing something at a difficult time ▪ I don't know what *keeps her going* after all these years. ▪ Their grandson is the only thing *keeping them going*. **4** ***keep (something) going*** : to cause (something) to continue to exist or function ▪ They tried everything they could think of to *keep* the business *going*. ▪ He *kept* the conversation *going*.

keep house see [1]HOUSE

keep in [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***keep (something) in*** : to not show or express (something, such as an emotion) ▪ You shouldn't *keep* your anger *in* all the time. **2** ***keep (someone) in (something)*** : to continue to provide (someone) with (something needed or wanted) ▪ It's very expensive *keeping* my children *in* clothes that fit. **3** ***keep in with (someone)*** *chiefly Brit* : to remain friendly with (someone) ▪ She's always *kept in with* the people with power.

keep off [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***keep off (something)*** *or* ***keep (someone or something) off (something)*** : to stop or prevent (someone or something) from being on (something) ▪ *Keep* [=*stay*] *off* the grass. [=do not walk on the grass] ▪ Please *keep* the dog *off* the sofa. **2** ***keep (weight) off*** : to continue to weigh a lower amount than you formerly weighed : to not regain weight that you have lost ▪ She has managed to *keep* (most of) the weight *off* for two years. ▪ Losing weight is not as hard as *keeping* it *off*. **3 a** ***keep off (something)*** : to not talk about (something) ▪ I think we'd better *keep off* [=*avoid*] the subject of the war. **b** ***keep (someone) off (something)*** : to prevent (someone) from talking about (something) ▪ We tried to *keep* them *off* (the subject of) the war.

keep on [*phrasal verb*] **1** *informal* : to continue happening, doing something, working, etc. ▪ The rain *kept on* [=*kept up*] throughout the day. ▪ He talked and talked. At one point I thought he would *keep on* all night. **2** ***keep (someone) on*** : to continue to have (someone) as an employee ▪ The chef was *kept on* even after the restaurant was sold. **3** ***keep on at (someone)*** *chiefly Brit, informal* : to say the same thing to (someone) again and again in a way that is annoying ▪ My parents *kept on at me* to go back to college.

keep out [*phrasal verb*] **1** : to not enter a place ▪ The sign on the door said *"Keep out!"* **2** ***keep out of (something)*** **a** : to not enter (a place) ▪ We were told to *keep out of* his office. ▪ Please *keep* [=*stay*] *out of* the way. **b** : to not become involved in (something) ▪ This argument doesn't involve you, so you should just *keep* [=*stay*] *out of* it. **3** ***keep out (someone or something)*** *or* ***keep (someone or something) out (of a place)*** : to stop or prevent (someone or something) from entering (a place) ▪ The curtains help *keep out* the drafts. ▪ *Keep* the cat *out* of the bedroom.

keep pace with see [1]PACE

keep score see [1]SCORE

keep tabs on see [1]TAB

keep the faith see FAITH

keep time see [1]TIME

keep to [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***keep to (something)*** **a** : to stay in or on (something) : to not leave (something) ▪ He *kept to* the house most of the time. ▪ She *keeps to* the main roads when she travels. **b** : to not go beyond (something) ▪ He tried to *keep* [=*stick*] *to* his budget. **c** : to act or behave in the way required by (something) ▪ *keep to* [=*abide by, obey*] the rules of the game **d** : to not move away from or change (something) ▪ I wish you'd just *keep to* [=*stick to*] the point. ▪ They *kept to* their story. **2** ***keep to yourself*** **a** *or chiefly Brit* ***keep yourself to yourself*** : to stay apart from other people : to avoid other people ▪ She was a shy girl who *kept* pretty much *to herself*. **b** ***keep (something) to yourself*** : to keep (something) secret ▪ He knew what the facts were but *kept them to himself*. [=he did not tell anyone what the facts were] ▪ She likes to *keep things to herself*.

keep track see [1]TRACK

keep up [*phrasal verb*] **1** : to go or make progress at the same rate as others : to stay even with others in a race, competition, etc. ▪ The leader began to run faster, and the other runners found it hard to *keep up*. — often + *with* ▪ The other runners struggled to *keep up with* the leader. ▪ He found it difficult to *keep up with* the rest of the class. **2** : to continue to know the newest information about something ▪ There is so much happening in the world now that I find it hard to *keep up*. [=stay informed] ▪ **I find it hard to** *keep up* on/with the news. **3** : to continue happening ▪ The rain *kept up* all night. ▪ The gunfire *kept up* for a long time. **4** ***keep up with (someone)*** *informal* : to continue to talk to or write to (someone) ▪ She still *keeps up with* [=*keeps in touch with*] her old friends from college. **5** ***keep (someone) up*** : to prevent (someone) from sleeping ▪ I hope our party didn't *keep* you *up* all night! **6** ***keep (something) up*** *or* ***keep up (something)*** **a** : to continue doing (something) ▪ *Keep up* the good work. ▪ *Keep* that *up*

and you'll get into trouble! **b** : to prevent (something) from getting worse, weaker, etc. ▪ We need to *keep* standards *up*. ▪ *Keep* your spirits *up*! ▪ The house had been *kept up* [=*maintained*] nicely. ▪ You need to exercise more to *keep* your strength *up*. **c** ✧ If you ***keep up your end*** of something (such as a bargain or agreement) you do what you have promised or agreed to do. ▪ I'm never sure if she will *keep up her end* of the deal.

keep up appearances see APPEARANCE

keep up with the Joneses see JONESES

keep your chin up see CHIN

keep your distance see [1]DISTANCE

keep your head see [1]HEAD

[2]keep *noun, pl* **keeps** [*count*] : the strongest part of a castle built in the Middle Ages

for keeps *informal* **1** : forever or permanently ▪ He moved back to the city *for keeps*. [=*for good*] **2** : with the understanding that you may keep what you win ▪ playing marbles *for keeps*

your keep : the amount of money you need to pay for food, clothing, a place to live, etc. — used in the phrase ***earn your keep*** ▪ She's been living off her parents long enough. It's time for her to get a job and start *earning her keep*.

keep•er /ˈkiːpɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

1 a : a person whose job is to guard or take care of something or someone ▪ a lion *keeper* ▪ " . . . am I my brother's *keeper*?" —Genesis 4:9 (KJV) — see also DOORKEEPER, GAMEKEEPER, GATEKEEPER, SHOPKEEPER, STOREKEEPER, ZOOKEEPER **b** *Brit* : CURATOR

2 *US, informal* : something or someone that is worth keeping : something or someone that is good, valuable, etc. ▪ Hold on to that boyfriend of yours—he's a *keeper*!

3 : GOALKEEPER

4 *American football* : a play in which the quarterback runs with the ball ▪ The quarterback gained five yards on a *keeper*.

finders keepers (losers weepers) see FINDER

keep•ing /ˈkiːpɪŋ/ *noun*

in keeping with **1 a** : agreeing with or sharing important qualities with (something) ▪ The decorations in the house are *in* (perfect) *keeping with* her personality. ▪ The book is *in keeping with* novels of the time. [=it is like novels written around that same time] **b** : in a way that agrees with, obeys, or matches (something) ▪ *In keeping with* the overall design of the park, the playground will remain small. ▪ The new bus station offers wireless Internet access *in keeping with* the expectations of modern travelers.

in your keeping ✧ If someone or something is *in your keeping*, you are expected to protect or take care of that person or thing ▪ What happened to the money that had been left *in his keeping*? [=(more commonly) *in his care*]

out of keeping with : not agreeing with or sharing important qualities with (something) ▪ Her comments revealed a nervousness that seemed *out of keeping with* her calm appearance. ▪ The modern décor was *out of keeping with* the church's architecture.

keep•sake /ˈkiːpˌseɪk/ *noun, pl* **-sakes** [*count*] : something that you keep to help you remember a person, place, or event : a memento or souvenir ▪ We were given books as *keepsakes* of the trip.

keg /ˈkɛg/ *noun, pl* **kegs** [*count*]

1 : a barrel for holding or serving something (such as beer) ▪ We bought a *keg* (of beer) for the party. — see also POWDER KEG

2 : the amount of something contained in a keg ▪ They drank an entire *keg* of beer.

keg•ger /ˈkɛgɚ/ *noun, pl* **-gers** [*count*] *US, informal* : a party at which people drink beer from a keg — called also *keg party*

kelp /ˈkɛlp/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a type of brown seaweed ▪ a bed of *kelp*

Kel•vin /ˈkɛlvən/ *adj, technical* : relating to or having a scale for measuring temperature on which the boiling point of water is at 373.1 degrees above zero and the freezing point is at 273.15 degrees above zero ▪ the *Kelvin* scale ▪ a temperature of 200 degrees *Kelvin* — abbr. *K*; compare CELSIUS, FAHRENHEIT

ken /ˈkɛn/ *noun*

beyond someone's ken : not within the range of what someone knows or understands ▪ These changes occurred for reasons that are *beyond my ken*. [=reasons that I do not know or understand] ▪ miracles that are *beyond human ken* [=miracles that cannot be understood by human beings]

ken•nel /ˈkɛnl/ *noun, pl* **-nels** [*count*]

1 : a place where dogs are kept while their owners are away ▪ While I was on vacation my dog went to a *kennel*. — called also (*Brit*) *kennels*; compare CATTERY

2 : a container or very small building for a dog or cat to sleep or stay in

kept *past tense and past participle of* [1]KEEP

kerb, kerbside *Brit spelling of* [1]CURB 1, CURBSIDE

ker•chief /ˈkɚ͡ʧəf/ *noun, pl* **-chiefs** [*count*] : a square piece of cloth that is worn around your neck or as a covering for your head

ker•nel /ˈkɚnl/ *noun, pl* **-nels** [*count*]

1 a : the small, somewhat soft part inside a seed or nut **b** : a whole seed; *especially* : one of the yellow seeds that cover an ear of corn ▪ a *kernel* of corn — see color picture on page C4

2 : a very small amount of something ▪ There's not a *kernel* of truth in what they say. ▪ *kernels* of wisdom

3 : the origin or basis of something ▪ the *kernel* [=*germ*] of the idea for the book

ker•o•sene /ˈkerəˌsiːn/ *noun* [*noncount*] *chiefly US* : a type of oil that is burned as a fuel — often used before another noun ▪ a *kerosene* heater/lamp — called also (*Brit*) *paraffin*

ketch /ˈkɛʧ/ *noun, pl* **ketch•es** [*count*] : a type of sailboat that has two masts

ketch•up /ˈkɛʧəp/ *noun, pl* **-ups** [*count, noncount*] : a thick sauce made with tomatoes ▪ a bottle of *ketchup* ▪ She put *ketchup* on her hamburger. — called also *tomato ketchup*

ket•tle /ˈkɛtl/ *noun, pl* **ket•tles** [*count*] : a container used for heating or boiling liquid ▪ a soup *kettle*; *especially* : TEAKETTLE ▪ Put the *kettle* on (the stove) so we can have a cup of tea. ▪ The *kettle* is boiling. [=the water in the kettle is boiling] — see picture at KITCHEN

kettle of fish *informal* **1** : a bad situation : MESS ▪ Well, this is a fine/nice/pretty *kettle of fish*. **2** : something or someone that is being considered or dealt with ▪ I have experience in domestic law, but international law is another *kettle of fish*. [=*matter*]

ket•tle•drum /ˈkɛtlˌdrʌm/ *noun, pl* **-drums** [*count*] : a large drum that has a rounded bottom — see picture at PERCUSSION

[1]key /ˈkiː/ *noun, pl* **keys** [*count*]

1 a : a device that is used to open a lock or start an automobile ✧ The usual type of key is a small metal object that you insert into a narrow opening and turn. ▪ You need the *key* to get into the drawer. ▪ She turned the *key* and opened the door. ▪ house/car *keys* ▪ the ignition *key* of a car ▪ the *key* to the lock — often used figuratively ▪ That woman holds the *key* to his heart. — see also LATCHKEY, PASSKEY, SKELETON KEY **b** : a device that looks like a key and that is used to turn something ▪ a *key* for winding a clock

2 : something that is necessary in order to do or achieve something — usually singular ▪ If you want to improve your health, exercise is the *key*. — usually + *to* ▪ The *key to* hitting the ball well is following through on your stroke. ▪ Hard work is the *key to* success.

3 a : something that provides an explanation or solution — usually + *to* ▪ the *key to* a riddle **b** : a list of words or phrases that explain the meaning of symbols or abbreviations ▪ Use the *key* to decode the symbols. ▪ a pronunciation *key*

4 a : any one of the buttons of a computer or typewriter that you push with your fingers ▪ He tapped away at the *keys*, typing his letter. — see picture at COMPUTER; see also FUNCTION KEY, SHIFT KEY **b** : any one of the parts that you push with your fingers to play a piano or similar musical instrument ▪ She sat down at the piano and put her hands on the *keys*.

5 *music* : a system of musical tones based on a scale beginning on the note for which the system is named ▪ the *key* of C ▪ The symphony changes *key* from G major to E minor.

under lock and key see [2]LOCK

– compare [4]KEY

[2]key *adj* : extremely important ▪ He's a *key* player/person in the organization. ▪ The *key* question is "Can we afford it?" ▪ Underline *key* words and phrases as you read. ▪ Their votes were *key* in getting the bill passed.

[3]key *verb* **keys**; **keyed**; **key•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to enter (information) by using the keys of a computer, typewriter, etc. ▪ The changes to the manuscript are being *keyed* by the typist. — often + *in* ▪ In order to gain access to the network, you first have to *key in* [=*type in*] your name

and password. — often + *into* • The cashier *keyed* each price *into* the cash register.

2 *US, informal* : to have the most important part in (something) • Defense *keyed* the victory.

key to [*phrasal verb*] *chiefly US* **1** ***key (something) to (something or someone)*** : to make (something) suitable for (a particular use or type of person) • I try to *key* my lectures *to* my audience. — often used as *(be) keyed to* • The educational program *is keyed to* the needs of working women. **2** ***key (something) to (something)*** : to change (something) in a way that is closely related to (something else) — usually used as *(be) keyed to* • The amount of money they receive *is keyed to* the rate of inflation. [=the amount increases or decreases if the rate of inflation increases or decreases] • Diets *are keyed to* a person's lifestyle and weight-loss goal.

[4]key *noun, pl* **keys**

1 [*count*] : a low island or reef

2 ***the Keys*** : a group of small islands off the southern coast of Florida

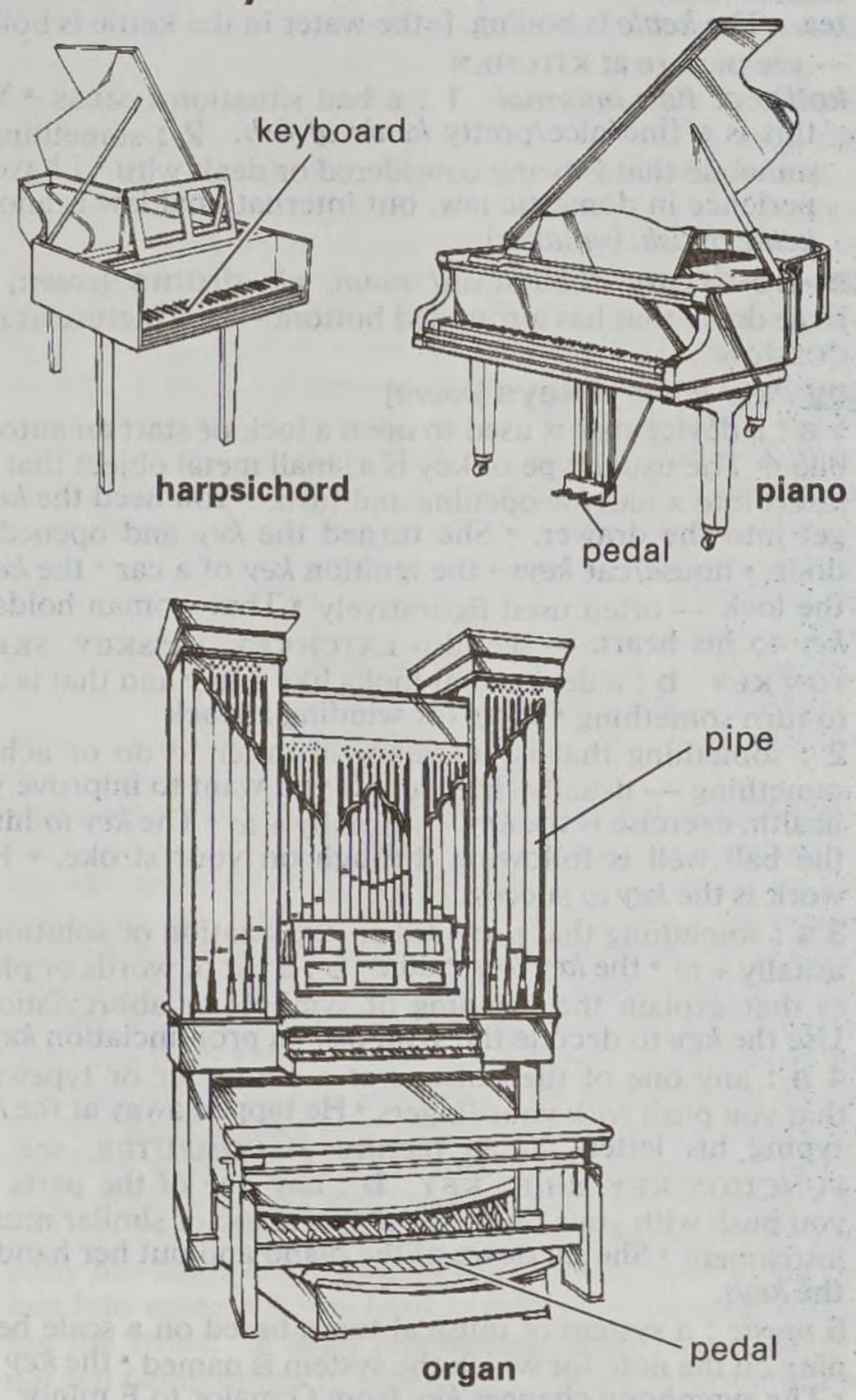
– compare [1]KEY

[1]key•board /'ki:ˌbɔəd/ *noun, pl* **-boards** [*count*]

1 a : a row or set of keys that are pushed to play a musical instrument (such as a piano) — sometimes used before another noun • The piano is a *keyboard* instrument. **b** : a musical instrument that is played by means of a keyboard like that of a piano and that produces sounds electronically • She plays the *keyboard*. — often plural • She plays *keyboards*.

2 : the set of keys that are used for a computer or typewriter — see picture at COMPUTER

keyboard instruments



organ

[2]keyboard *verb* **-boards; -board•ed; board•ing** : to enter (information) into a computer by using a keyboard [+ *obj*] *keyboard* [=*key*] a manuscript [*no obj*] learning how to *keyboard*

– **key•board•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] – **keyboarding** *noun* [*noncount*] • He is taking a class in *keyboarding*.

key•board•ist /'ki:ˌbɔədɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] : a musician who plays a keyboard (sense 1b)

key chain *noun, pl* ~ **chains** [*count*] : a device that is used to hold keys and that usually consists of a metal ring, a short chain, and a small decoration — called also *key ring*

keyed up *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *informal* : excited or nervous • The students were all *keyed up* for the test. • I was too *keyed up* to sleep.

key•hole /'ki:ˌhoʊl/ *noun, pl* **-holes** [*count*] : the opening in a lock into which a key is placed — see picture at DOOR

key lime *noun, pl* ~ **limes** [*count*] : a small lime that is grown especially in the Florida Keys • *key lime pie* [=a sweet pie that is usually made with key limes]

key•note /'ki:ˌnoʊt/ *noun, pl* **-notes** [*count*] : the most important idea or part of something • Humor is the *keynote* of the play.

keynote address *noun, pl* ~ **-dresses** [*count*] : the main speech given at a gathering (such as a political convention) • Many of the convention guests left after the *keynote address*. — called also *keynote speech*

key•not•er /'ki:ˌnoʊtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : KEYNOTE SPEAKER

keynote speaker *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] : a person who gives a keynote address • Senator Williams was the *keynote speaker* at the convention. — called also *keynoter*

key•pad /'ki:ˌpæd/ *noun, pl* **-pads** [*count*] : a set of keys or buttons for entering information into a calculator, telephone, etc. • a numeric *keypad* [=a set of keys or buttons that have numbers on them] — see picture at TELEPHONE

key ring *noun, pl* ~ **rings** [*count*] : KEY CHAIN

key•stone /'ki:ˌstoʊn/ *noun, pl* **-stones** [*count*]

1 : a large stone at the top of an arch that locks the other stones in place

2 : something on which other things depend for support • Tourism is the city's economic *keystone*. • the *keystone* of his faith

key•stroke /'ki:ˌstroʊk/ *noun, pl* **-strokes** [*count*] : the act of pushing down a key on a keyboard • He deleted all of my work with a single *keystroke*.

key•word /'ki:ˌwɚd/ *noun, pl* **-words** [*count*] : a word that is used to find information in a piece of writing, in a computer document, or on the Internet • She typed the *keywords* "Medieval" and "medicine" into the search engine and pulled up a lot of results. • a *keyword* search of the database

kg *abbr* kilogram

KGB *abbr* ✧ *KGB* is the abbreviation of the Russian name for the former Soviet organization responsible for national security and for collecting information about other countries or foreign groups. • a member of the *KGB*

kha•ki /'kæki, 'kɑ:ki/ *noun, pl* **-kis**

1 [*noncount*] : a yellowish-brown cloth • a military uniform made of *khaki* — often used before another noun • *khaki* pants

2 ***khakis*** [*plural*] : pants made of khaki • a pair of *khakis*

3 [*noncount*] : a yellowish-brown color — see color picture on page C3

kHz *abbr* kilohertz

kib•butz /kɪ'bʊts/ *noun, pl* **kib•but•zim** /kɪˌbʊt'si:m/ [*count*] : a farm in Israel on which a group of people live and work together

ki•bitz /'kɪbəts/ *verb* **-bitz•es; -bitzed; -bitz•ing** *US, informal* **1** [*no obj*] : to talk to someone in a friendly and informal way : CHAT • They sat around *kibitzing* about their children.

2 : to watch other people and make unwanted comments about what they are doing [*no obj*] My uncle likes to *kibitz* when I play poker with my cousins. [+ *obj*] He likes to *kibitz* our poker games.

– **ki•bitz•er** /'kɪbətsɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] • a *kibitzer* at a card game

ki•bosh /'kaɪˌbɑ:ʃ/ *noun*

put the kibosh on *informal* : to stop or end (something) : to prevent (something) from happening or continuing • His mother *put the kibosh on* his smoking habit. [=his mother forced him to stop smoking]

[1]kick /'kɪk/ *verb* **kicks; kicked; kick•ing**

1 a [+ *obj*] : to hit (someone or something) with your foot • The attacker *kicked* him in the stomach. • She lost her temper and *kicked* over the box. • He *kicked* the ball into the goal. • She *kicked* the ball to me. • The policeman *kicked* the door open. **b** : to move your leg or legs in the air or in water especially in a strong or forceful way [+ *obj*] The baby *kicked* his legs in the air. • The swimming instructor reminded the children to *kick* their legs as they swam. [*no obj*] The baby *kicked* with pleasure. • The boy ***kicked and screamed*** as his mother carried him out of the room. = The boy was car-

ried out of the room ***kicking and screaming.*** — often used figuratively ▪ They told him he needed a computer, but he had to be ***dragged kicking and screaming*** into the 21st century. [=he had to be forced to stop doing things the old way and use a computer]

2 [+ *obj*] *sports* : to score (a goal) by kicking a ball ▪ He *kicked* the winning field goal.

3 [+ *obj*] *informal* : to completely stop doing (something harmful to yourself) : to put an end to (a bad or dangerous habit) ▪ When he was 25, he *kicked* his cocaine habit and went back to school. ▪ I've been smoking for years, but this year I'm determined to ***kick the habit.***

4 [*no obj*] *informal* : to be full of life and energy — always used as *(be) kicking* ▪ He's almost 90 years old, but he's still *kicking.* ▪ The movement *is* still ***alive and kicking.***

kick around [*phrasal verb*] *informal* **1 *kick around (a place) or kick around*** : to spend time in (a place) without having a goal or purpose : to wander around (a place) ▪ After graduation, he *kicked around* Boston for a while, trying to decide what to do next. = After graduation, he *kicked around* for a while, trying to decide what to do next. **2** : to be lying somewhere within a general area or place ▪ I think I have a copy of that book *kicking around* [=lying around] somewhere in my house. **3 a** : to be considered or discussed in an informal way over a period of time ▪ These ideas have been *kicking around* for years. **b *kick around (something) or kick (something) around*** : to consider or talk about (ideas, plans, etc.) in an informal way ▪ We should have a meeting to *kick around* some ideas about possible new products. **4 *kick (someone) around or kick around (someone)*** : to treat (someone) in a very bad or unfair way ▪ He gets *kicked around* by his older brother.

kick ass *US, informal + impolite* **1** : to succeed or win in a very impressive way ▪ a lawyer who *kicks ass* in the courtroom ▪ Our team *kicked ass* in the soccer tournament. **2** : to use force to achieve some purpose ▪ If they don't start answering my questions, I'm going to go over there and *kick* some *ass.* **3 *kick someone's ass*** **a** : to attack and injure someone severely ▪ Some drunk threatened to *kick his ass.* ▪ He ***got his ass kicked*** by some drunk. **b** : to defeat someone easily or completely ▪ We *got our asses kicked* [=we lost badly] in the last game. — see also KICK-ASS

kick back [*phrasal verb*] *chiefly US, informal* : to relax and enjoy yourself ▪ After work, he likes to *kick back* and watch some TV. ▪ I spent the weekend just *kicking back.*

kick butt *US, informal + sometimes impolite* — used in the same ways as *kick ass* (above) ▪ Our team *kicked butt* in the soccer tournament. ▪ I'm going to go over there and *kick* some *butt.* ▪ Some drunk threatened to *kick his butt.*

kick in [*phrasal verb*] *informal* **1** : to begin to work or to have an effect ▪ Once the heat *kicks in,* it will be a lot more comfortable in here. ▪ waiting for the new law to *kick in* **2 *kick in (something) or kick (something) in*** *US* : to give (an amount of money) as your share : CONTRIBUTE ▪ We each *kicked in* a few dollars for her gift.

kick off [*phrasal verb*] **1** : to start play in a game (such as American football or soccer) by kicking the ball ▪ Jones will *kick off* from the 30-yard line. — see also KICKOFF **2 a *kick off (something) or kick (something) off*** : to begin (something, such as a performance, an event, or a discussion) ▪ The chairman's speech will *kick off* the conference. **b** : to get started : BEGIN ▪ The conference *kicked off* with a speech by the chairman. ▪ The game *kicks off* at 1:00. **3 *kick (someone) off (something)*** : to force (someone) to leave (a team or group) ▪ The coach threatened to *kick* him *off* the team if he continued to be late for practice. **4 *kick off (your shoes) or kick (your shoes) off*** : to remove (your shoes) by making a kicking motion ▪ She *kicked off* her shoes and started to dance. **5** *informal* : to die ▪ I was so sick that I felt like I might *kick off* at any time.

kick out [*phrasal verb*] ***kick (someone) out*** *or* ***kick out (someone)*** : to force (someone) to leave a place, group, school, etc. ▪ He was/got *kicked out* [=*thrown out*] of the school when he was caught cheating again. ▪ They threatened to *kick* him *out* (of the bar) if he didn't stop annoying people. ▪ She *kicked* her husband *out* (of the house).

kick (someone) upstairs *informal* : to promote (someone) to a higher but less powerful or important position ▪ He was *kicked upstairs,* given a fancy title, and stripped of most of his power.

kick the bucket *informal + somewhat old-fashioned* : to die ▪ He inherited the house after his uncle *kicked the bucket.*

kick up [*phrasal verb*] **1 *kick up (something) or kick (something) up*** : to cause (something) to rise upward ▪ The car sped away, *kicking up* dirt and gravel. **2** *informal* **a *kick up (something) or kick (something) up*** : to cause (something) to become stronger ▪ The praise *kicked up* her confidence. ▪ The intensity of the game got *kicked up* a notch when a fight broke out. **b** : to become stronger ▪ The wind suddenly *kicked up.* **3 *kick up (something) or kick (something) up*** *informal* : to cause (something) to happen ▪ The high winds *kicked up* huge waves. ▪ The service in the restaurant wasn't very good, but we decided not to ***kick up a fuss/stink*** [=*complain*] about it.

kick up your heels *US, informal* : to relax and enjoy yourself : to have a good and lively time ▪ After exams were over, the students had a little time to *kick up their heels.*

kick yourself *informal* : to blame or criticize yourself for something you have done ▪ You've got to stop *kicking yourself.* It wasn't your fault that the project failed. ▪ He was *kicking himself* for having forgotten the meeting. ▪ He ***could have kicked himself*** [=he was very angry at himself] when he realized that he had forgotten the meeting.

²kick *noun, pl* **kicks** [*count*]

1 a : an act of hitting someone or something with your foot ▪ He gave me a *kick* in the leg. ▪ If you give the machine a little *kick,* it should start working again. : a sudden forceful movement with your foot ▪ a karate *kick* **b** : an act of hitting a ball with your foot ▪ a soccer *kick* ▪ a long *kick* in football — see also CORNER KICK, DROPKICK, FREE KICK, PENALTY KICK, PLACEKICK

2 a : a sudden forceful movement — usually singular ▪ I felt the *kick* of the engine when it started. ▪ The rifle has a powerful *kick.* **b** *informal* : a quality that produces a sudden powerful effect — usually singular ▪ The drink has a *kick* [=a strong effect from alcohol] to it. ▪ chili with a *kick* [=a very hot and spicy flavor]

3 *informal* : a feeling or source of pleasure ▪ She gets a *kick* out of watching old movies. [=she enjoys watching old movies] ▪ I got a *kick* out of seeing her again. = Seeing her again was a *kick.* ▪ We play ***for kicks*** [=for enjoyment], not for money. ▪ He ***gets his kicks*** from embarrassing his teammates. [=he enjoys embarrassing his teammates]

4 *informal* — used with *on* to say that someone is doing a lot of something for usually a brief period of time ▪ He's been *on* a health-food *kick* lately. [=he has been eating a lot of health food lately]

5 : an increase in speed at the end of the race ▪ a runner who has a strong ***finishing kick***

a kick in the teeth *informal* : something that is very shocking and disappointing ▪ Losing that game was *a* real *kick in the teeth.*

kick–ass /ˈkɪkˌæs/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *chiefly US, informal + impolite*

1 : very tough and aggressive ▪ a *kick-ass* career woman who is determined to get to the top ▪ an executive with a *kick-ass* attitude/style

2 : very good or impressive ▪ a *kick-ass* stereo/movie/song — see also *kick ass* at ¹KICK

kick•back /ˈkɪkˌbæk/ *noun, pl* **-backs** [*count*] : an amount of money that is given to someone in return for providing help in a secret and dishonest business deal ▪ Several company executives were accused of accepting *kickbacks.*

kick•ball /ˈkɪkˌbɑːl/ *noun* [*noncount*] *US* : a game for children that is like baseball but that is played with a large rubber ball that is kicked instead of being hit with a bat

kick•box•ing /ˈkɪkˌbɑːksɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a form of boxing in which fighters are allowed to kick each other with their bare feet

kick•er /ˈkɪkɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers**

1 [*count*] : a person who kicks something; *especially* : a person who specializes in kicking the ball in a sport like American football

2 [*singular*] *US, informal* : a sudden and surprising occurrence, remark, etc. ▪ The real *kicker* came when the chairman announced that he was quitting.

kick•off /ˈkɪkˌɑːf/ *noun, pl* **-offs** [*count*]

1 : a kick that starts play in a game (such as American football or soccer) ▪ a long *kickoff* ▪ The *kickoff* (of the game) is at 1:00. [=the game begins at 1:00]

2 : the start of something ▪ At his campaign *kickoff,* the senator gave a passionate speech about combating poverty. ▪ His speech marked the *kickoff* of his campaign. — see also *kick off* at ¹KICK

kick•stand /ˈkɪkˌstænd/ *noun, pl* **-stands** [*count*] : a metal

bar on a bicycle or motorcycle that swings down to hold it in an upright position when it is not in use

kick–start /ˈkɪkˌstɑɚt/ *verb* **-starts**; **-start•ed**; **-start•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to start (a motorcycle) by pushing down on a lever with your foot
2 a : to cause (something) to start quickly ▪ Advertising can help to *kick-start* [=*jump-start*] a political campaign. **b** : to give new energy to (something) ▪ a plan to *kick-start* [=*jump-start*] the economy
– **kick–start** *noun, pl* **-starts** [*count*] ▪ a plan to give the economy a *kick-start*

[1]kid /ˈkɪd/ *noun, pl* **kids**
1 [*count*] *informal* **a** : a son or daughter : CHILD ▪ She has to leave early and pick up her *kids* at school. ▪ He has a wife and two *kids*. **b** : a young person ▪ I loved to play hopscotch when I was a *kid*. [=*child*] ▪ I wish I could do something to help that poor *kid*. ▪ I know he seems very mature, but he's really still just a *kid*. [=he's still very young] ▪ a bunch of college *kids* [=young people who are attending college] — sometimes used as a form of address ▪ Hey, *kid*! ▪ You'd better listen to me, *kid*, because I'm not going to say this twice.
2 a [*count*] : a young goat **b** [*noncount*] : a soft leather made from the skin of a young goat ▪ gloves made of *kid* ▪ *kid* leather
new kid on the block : someone who has recently joined a particular group ▪ I was the *new kid on the block*, having just been hired the week before.
– see also KID GLOVES

[2]kid *adj, always used before a noun, chiefly US, informal* : younger ▪ my *kid* brother/sister [=my brother/sister who is younger than I am]

[3]kid *verb* **kids**; **kid•ded**; **kid•ding** *informal*
1 : to speak to (someone) in a way that is not serious : to say things that are not true to (someone) in a joking way [+ *obj*] It's the truth. I wouldn't *kid* you about something so important. ▪ I'm not *kidding* you when I say that this is one of the best meals I've ever eaten. ▪ I panicked when he said the test was tomorrow, but then I realized he was just *kidding* me. ▪ The test is tomorrow? ***You must be kidding me***! ▪ "The test is tomorrow." "***Are you kidding me***?!" "***I kid you not***." [=I am not kidding you] [*no obj*] Don't be offended by what he said. He was just/only *kidding*. — often + *around* ▪ I'm not really angry—I'm just *kidding around*.
2 [+ *obj*] : to make fun of (someone) in a friendly way : TEASE ▪ We *kidded* her about her old car.
3 [+ *obj*] : to say (something) in a joking way ▪ "I might eat this whole pie by myself," she *kidded*. ▪ She *kidded* that she might eat the whole pie by herself.
kid yourself : to fail to admit the truth to yourself : to deceive yourself ▪ If you think he'll help us, you're just *kidding yourself*. ▪ "I think he'll help us if we ask him." "Don't *kid yourself*—he's only interested in his own problems."
no kidding *informal* **1** — used to emphasize the truth of a statement ▪ *No kidding*, the test is tomorrow. **2** — used to ask if a statement is really true ▪ "The test is tomorrow." "*No kidding*?" **3** — used to show that you are surprised by or interested in what has been said. ▪ "My brother got engaged last month." "*No kidding*! That's great news!" — often used in an ironic way in response to a statement that is regarded as very obvious ▪ "If we don't start going faster, we're not going to finish on time." "Gee, *no kidding*."
– **kid•der** *noun, pl* **-ders** [*count*] ▪ He's quite a *kidder*. [=he likes to kid around]

kid•die *also* **kid•dy** /ˈkɪdi/ *noun, pl* **-dies** [*count*] *informal* : a young child ▪ It's a scary movie that might not be appropriate for the *kiddies*. — often used before another noun ▪ a *kiddie* movie [=a movie intended for small children] ▪ a *kiddie* pool for the toddlers

kid•do /ˈkɪdoʊ/ *noun, chiefly US, informal* — used by an adult to speak to a young person ▪ Pay attention to me, *kiddo*, or you're going to get hurt!

kid gloves *noun*
with kid gloves : in a very gentle or careful way : with special care in order to avoid causing damage or offense ▪ He's very temperamental and needs to be treated *with kid gloves*. ▪ School reform is a sensitive issue, and many politicians treat it *with kid gloves*.
– **kid–glove** /ˈkɪdˈglʌv/ *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ Many politicians give the issue the ***kid-glove treatment***.

kid•nap /ˈkɪdˌnæp/ *verb* **-naps**; **-napped** *also US* **-naped**; **-nap•ping** *also US* **-nap•ing** [+ *obj*] : to take away (someone) by force usually in order to keep the person as a prisoner and demand money for returning the person ▪ She had been *kidnapped* (from her home).
– **kid•nap•per** *also US* **kid•nap•er** *noun, pl* **-nap•pers** *also US* **-nap•ers** [*count*] ▪ The *kidnapper* demanded one million dollars in ransom. – **kidnapping** *also US* **kidnaping** *noun* [*noncount*] He was found guilty of *kidnapping*. [*count*] There have been several recent *kidnappings*.

kid•ney /ˈkɪdni/ *noun, pl* **-neys** [*count*]
1 : either of two organs in your body that remove waste products from your blood and make urine ▪ a patient with a damaged *kidney* — often used before another noun ▪ *kidney* failure ▪ a *kidney* transplant — see picture at HUMAN
2 : an animal kidney used as food ▪ steak and *kidney* pie

kidney bean *noun, pl* ~ **beans** [*count*] : a type of large and dark red bean

kidney stone *noun, pl* ~ **stones** [*count*] *medical* : a hard object like a small stone that sometimes forms in a kidney and that can cause great pain

kid stuff *or* **kid's stuff** *noun* [*noncount*] *informal*
1 : something that is suited only for children ▪ toys and other *kid stuff*
2 : something that is very simple or easy ▪ It's time to cut out the *kid's stuff* and get down to business.

kike /ˈkaɪk/ *noun, pl* **kikes** [*count*] *informal* + *offensive* : a Jewish person ✧ The word *kike* is very offensive and should be avoided.

[1]kill /ˈkɪl/ *verb* **kills**; **killed**; **kill•ing**
1 : to cause the death of (a person, animal, or plant) : to end the life of (someone or something) [+ *obj*] This poison *kills* rats. ▪ The disease has *killed* thousands of people. ▪ Three people were *killed* in the accident. ▪ a chemical that *kills* weeds ▪ In despair he threatened to ***kill himself***. [=to commit suicide] ▪ If he keeps working this hard, he's going to *kill himself*. [=he's going to have health problems that cause his death] — often used figuratively ▪ My father will *kill* me [=he will be very angry] when he finds out that I dented the car. ▪ I'll finish this job ***if it kills me***! [=I am very determined to finish this job] ▪ ***It wouldn't kill you*** to help me clean up the kitchen. = ***Would it kill you*** to help me clean up the kitchen? [=you should help me clean up the kitchen] [*no obj*] Drunk driving *kills*. ▪ a disease that can *kill* ▪ I've never seen her so angry. ***If looks could kill***, I'd be dead right now. [=she looked at me in a very angry way] — often used figuratively ▪ I'd ***kill for*** hair like hers! [=I wish I had hair like hers]
2 [+ *obj*] : to cause the end of (something) ▪ If she enters the contest, it will *kill* [=*destroy*] our chances of winning. ▪ She took an aspirin to *kill* [=*stop*] her headache. ▪ taking drugs to *kill* the pain ▪ Despite protests, the mayor *killed* the program. ▪ The committee *killed* the bill. ▪ This delay has *killed* our chances of finishing the project on schedule. ▪ The editor decided to *kill* [=to not publish] the controversial news story.
3 [+ *obj*] *informal* : to turn (something) off with a switch ▪ She told him to *kill* the lights. ▪ He *killed* [=*shut off*] the engine and got out of the car.
4 [+ *obj*] *informal* : to spend (time) doing something while you are waiting ▪ We *killed* time by reading magazines. ▪ We have a couple of hours to *kill* before we board the plane.
5 [+ *obj*] *informal* **a** : to cause (someone) to feel extreme pain or to suffer ▪ My feet are *killing* me. [=my feet hurt very much] ▪ Working these long hours is *killing* me. **b** : to make (someone) nervous or unhappy ▪ I'm still waiting to hear if I got the job. The suspense is *killing* me. ▪ It really *kills* me to think of how much money I could have made if I had invested in that company.
6 [+ *obj*] *informal* : to amuse or entertain (someone) very much ▪ That guy *kills* me. [=I think he's very funny] ▪ His jokes always *kill* me. ▪ Her performance *killed* the audience. [=the audience loved her performance]
7 [+ *obj*] *informal* : to drink (something) completely ▪ He *killed* three beers in less than an hour.
dressed to kill see DRESSED
fit to kill see [1]FIT
kill off [*phrasal verb*] ***kill off (something) or kill (something) off*** **1** : to kill all of (something) : to kill every one of (a group) ▪ Scientists aren't certain what *killed off* the dinosaurs. ▪ She *killed off* her relatives to get the inheritance. **2** : to remove (something) completely : to get rid of (something) ▪ The company has become so successful that it has *killed off* the competition.
kill (someone) with kindness : to treat (someone) in a way that is too kind or helpful and that actually causes harm

kill the clock see [1]CLOCK

kill two birds with one stone : to achieve two things by doing a single action ▪ We can *kill two birds with one stone* by dropping off the mail when we go the grocery store.

[2]kill *noun, pl* **kills** [*count*]

1 : an act of killing someone or something ▪ The tiger has made several *kills* in this area. ▪ The lion was ***moving in for the kill*** [=was coming closer to another animal in order to kill it] — often used figuratively ▪ Her political opponents believe that she can be defeated, and they are *moving in for the kill*.

2 : an animal that has been killed ▪ The lion was devouring its *kill*. [=the animal that it had killed] — see also ROADKILL

[1]kill•er /'kɪlɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

1 : a person or thing that kills someone or something ▪ The police finally captured the *killer*. [=*murderer*] ▪ Heart disease is the leading *killer* of both men and women. ▪ The chemical is used as a weed *killer*.

2 *informal* : something that is very difficult ▪ That exam was a (real) *killer*. = That sure was a *killer* of an exam.

[2]killer *adj, always used before a noun, chiefly US*

1 : causing death or destruction ▪ a *killer* tornado

2 *informal* : very impressive or appealing ▪ She has a *killer* smile. [=a very attractive smile] ▪ a *killer* résumé

3 *informal* : very difficult ▪ a *killer* exam

killer app *noun, pl* ~ **apps** [*count*] : an extremely valuable or useful computer program

killer bee *noun, pl* ~ **bees** [*count*] : a dangerous type of bee that is originally from Africa

killer instinct *noun, pl* ~ **-stincts** [*count*] : a very strong desire to succeed or win ▪ Her *killer instincts* have helped her become one of the top tennis players in the world.

killer whale *noun, pl* ~ **whales** [*count*] : a black-and-white whale that kills and eats other animals (such as seals) — called also *orca*

kill•ing /'kɪlɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-ings** [*count*]

1 : an act of killing someone or something ▪ The oil spill is responsible for the *killing* of thousands of birds. ▪ A series of horrific *killings* [=*murders*] have made headlines across the nation. — see also MERCY KILLING

2 *informal* : a large amount of money — usually singular ▪ He ***made a killing*** in the stock market.

kill•joy /'kɪlˌʤɔɪ/ *noun, pl* **-joys** [*count*] *disapproving* : a person who spoils other people's fun or enjoyment ▪ I don't want to sound like a *killjoy*, but shouldn't we study tonight?

kiln /'kɪln/ *noun, pl* **kilns** [*count*] : an oven or furnace that is used for hardening, burning, or drying something (such as pottery)

ki•lo /'kiːloʊ/ *noun, pl* **-los** [*count*] : KILOGRAM

kilo- /'kɪlə/ *combining form* : thousand ▪ *kilo*gram ▪ *kilo*meter

ki•lo•byte /'kɪləˌbaɪt/ *noun, pl* **-bytes** [*count*] : a unit of computer information equal to 1,024 bytes — abbr. *KB*; compare GIGABYTE, MEGABYTE

ki•lo•gram /'kɪləˌgræm/ *noun, pl* **-grams** [*count*] : a unit of weight equal to 1,000 grams — abbr. *kg*

ki•lo•hertz /'kɪləˌhɚts/ *noun, pl* **-hertz** [*count*] *technical* : a unit of frequency equal to 1,000 hertz ▪ a frequency of 80 *kilohertz* — abbr. *kHz*

kilo•li•ter (*US*) *or Brit* **ki•lo•li•tre** /'kɪləˌliːtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*] : a unit for measuring the volume of a liquid or gas that is equal to 1,000 liters — abbr. *kl*

ki•lo•me•ter (*US*) *or Brit* **ki•lo•me•tre** /kə'lɑːmətɚ, 'kɪləˌmiːtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*] : a unit of length equal to 1,000 meters — abbr. *km*

kilo•watt /'kɪləˌwɑːt/ *noun, pl* **-watts** [*count*] : a unit of electrical power equal to 1,000 watts — abbr. *kW*; compare MEGAWATT

kilowatt–hour *noun, pl* **-hours** [*count*] *technical* : a unit of work or energy equal to the amount produced by one kilowatt in one hour — abbr. *kWh*

kilt /'kɪlt/ *noun, pl* **kilts** [*count*]

1 : a type of skirt traditionally worn by men in Scotland — see color picture on page C16

2 : a woman's skirt that resembles a Scottish kilt

– kilt•ed /'kɪltəd/ *adj* ▪ a *kilted* Scotsman

kil•ter /'kɪltɚ/ *noun*

out of kilter *or* ***off kilter*** — used to describe something that is not in the exactly right position or condition, is not working in the usual or proper way, etc. ▪ Unexpected expenses threw the budget *out of kilter*. ▪ Our schedule has been knocked *off kilter*. — see also OFF-KILTER

ki•mo•no /kə'moʊnoʊ/ *noun, pl* **-nos** [*count*] : a loose piece of clothing with wide sleeves that is traditionally worn on formal occasions in Japan — see color picture on page C16

kin /'kɪn/ *noun* [*plural*] *somewhat old-fashioned* : a person's relatives ▪ They are her distant *kin*. ▪ He and I are *kin*. [=we are related to each other] ▪ Are you any ***kin to*** him? [=are you related to him?] ▪ He's ***no kin to*** me. [=he is not related to me] — see also *next of kin* at [3]NEXT

kith and kin see KITH

[1]kind /'kaɪnd/ *noun, pl* **kinds** [*count*] : a group of people or things that belong together or have some shared quality : a particular type or variety of person or thing ▪ hawks and other birds of that *kind* ▪ "What *kind* of (a) car do you drive?" "The same *kind* you drive." ▪ In this city, you'll find many *kinds* of people. ▪ Most people prefer to be with their own *kind*. [=with people who are like them] ▪ I like to try different *kinds* of food. ▪ I know he would never lie to me because he's not that *kind* (of person). ▪ She described the color as a *kind* of red. ▪ I think he's an accountant, financial adviser, or something of that *kind*. ▪ Did you honestly think that I'd agree to do this? What *kind* of fool do you think I am? [=do you think that I am a fool?] ▪ Boston is ***my kind of*** (a) town. [=I like Boston]

all kinds of **1** : a large number or variety of (things or people) : MANY ▪ She reads *all kinds of* books. ▪ He likes *all kinds of* sports. **2** *chiefly US, informal* : a large amount of (something) : plenty of (something) ▪ There's no hurry. We have *all kinds of* time to get ready.

in kind **1** : in a way that is equal or very similar to what someone else has done for you ▪ If you help me, I promise to return the favor *in kind*. [=I promise to help you in the same way] **2** *business* : in goods or services rather than in money ▪ payment *in kind* rather than in cash

kind of *informal* : to some small degree : SOMEWHAT ▪ It's *kind of* cold in here. ▪ I think he *kind of* likes me. ▪ I'm *kind of* worried.

of a kind — used to say that people or things are the same or are very similar ▪ John and his dad are ***two of a kind***. [=they are very much alike]

of the kind : like the person or thing mentioned ▪ I'd like to go to a movie or a concert, or ***something of the kind***. [=something like that] — often used in negative statements ▪ He said I hung up on him, but I never did ***anything of the kind***! [=I never hung up on him] ▪ This technology is completely new. I've never seen *anything of the kind* [=anything like it] before. ▪ "He's really pretty arrogant, isn't he?" "He's ***nothing of the kind***. [=he's not arrogant at all] He's a very friendly and helpful man." ▪ This technology is completely new. *Nothing of the kind* [=nothing like it] has ever been seen before.

one of a kind : a person or thing that is not like any other person or thing ▪ I don't know how we'll ever replace Mary after she retires. She's really *one of a kind*.

[2]kind *adj* **kind•er; -est**

1 : having or showing a gentle nature and a desire to help others : wanting and liking to do good things and to bring happiness to others ▪ A *kind* old woman took the cat in and nursed it back to health. ▪ It was very *kind* of you to show me the way. ▪ Thank you for your *kind* words. ▪ a *kind* smile — often + *to* ▪ My uncle has always been very *kind to* me.

2 — used to say that something does not cause harm, is not harsh or unpleasant, etc.; usually + *to* ▪ Old age has been very *kind to* her: she still looks great at 84. ▪ a soap that is *kind to* your hands ▪ The critics have not been *kind to* her latest novel. [=they have harshly criticized her latest novel]

3 — used to make a formal request ▪ Would you ***be kind enough*** to show me the way? = Would you ***be so kind*** as to show me the way? [=would you please show me the way?]

kinda /'kaɪndə/ — used in writing to represent the sound of the phrase *kind of* when it is spoken quickly ▪ It's *kinda* [=*kind of*] cold in here. [=it's somewhat cold in here] ✧ The pronunciation represented by *kinda* is common in informal speech. The written form should be avoided except when trying to represent or record such speech.

kin•der•gar•ten /'kɪndɚˌgɑɚtn̩/ *noun, pl* **-tens** [*count, noncount*] : a school or class for very young children ✧ In the U.S., children in kindergarten are usually about five years old. ▪ My daughter is in *kindergarten* now; next fall she'll enter the first grade.

– kin•der•gart•ner /'kɪndɚˌgɑɚtnɚ/ *or* **kin•der•gar•ten•er** /'kɪndɚˌgɑɚtənɚ/ *noun, pl* **-gart•ners** *or* **-gar•ten•ers**

K

[*count*] *US* ▪ All of the *kindergartners* [=children in kindergarten] drew pictures of their favorite animals.

kind•heart•ed /ˌkaɪndˈhɑɚtəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having or showing a kind and gentle nature ▪ A *kindhearted* neighbor offered to help. ▪ a *kindhearted* gesture
– **kind•heart•ed•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

kin•dle /ˈkɪndl̩/ *verb* **kin•dles**; **kin•dled**; **kin•dling**
1 a [+ *obj*] : to cause (a fire) to start burning ▪ using dry twigs to *kindle* a fire **b** [*no obj*] : to begin burning ▪ waiting for the fire to *kindle*
2 [+ *obj*] : to cause the start of (something) ▪ A trip to the museum when she was a child *kindled* her interest in art. ▪ The incident *kindled* a new national debate.

kin•dling /ˈkɪndlɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : dry twigs, pieces of paper, etc., that burn easily and are used to start a fire ▪ a pile of *kindling*

[1]kind•ly /ˈkaɪndli/ *adj* **kind•li•er**; **-est** [*also more* ~; *most* ~] : having or showing a gentle nature and a desire to help others : KIND ▪ A *kindly* woman helped him find his way home. ▪ a *kindly* smile
– **kind•li•ness** /ˈkaɪndlinəs/ *noun* [*noncount*]

[2]kindly *adv*
1 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : in a kind way ▪ She always treats animals *kindly*. ▪ They *kindly* offered to help us.
2 — used to make a formal request ▪ Would you *kindly* [=*please*] pass the salt? — sometimes used in making a request that is caused by annoyance ▪ Would you *kindly* turn down the music? I'm trying to read. ▪ *Kindly* leave me alone.
look kindly on/upon : to approve of (something or someone) ▪ Many people do not *look kindly on* the government's attempt to intervene in this matter. ▪ He says that he will *look kindly on* any request you make.
take kindly to : to willingly accept or approve of (someone or something) — usually used in negative statements ▪ He does not *take kindly to* criticism. [=he does not like to be criticized] ▪ She does not *take kindly to* people who tell her what to do.

kind•ness /ˈkaɪndnəs/ *noun, pl* **-ness•es**
1 [*noncount*] : the quality or state of being kind ▪ You should treat your elders with *kindness* and respect. = You should show *kindness* and respect to your elders. ▪ They did it out of ***the kindness of their hearts***. [=they did it because they are kind people and not because they wanted something in return] — see also *the milk of human kindness* at [1]MILK
2 [*count*] : a kind act ▪ We thanked her for her many *kindnesses*. ▪ You would be doing me a great *kindness* if you agreed to help.
kill (someone) with kindness see [1]KILL

[1]kin•dred /ˈkɪndrəd/ *adj, always used before a noun, formal*
1 : alike or similar ▪ philosophy, political theory, and *kindred* topics ▪ I believe she and I are ***kindred spirits/souls***.
2 : closely related ▪ *kindred* tribes ▪ German and English are *kindred* languages.

[2]kindred *noun* [*plural*] *old-fashioned* : a person's relatives ▪ He went out to sea, and never saw his *kindred* again.

ki•net•ic /kəˈnɛtɪk/ *adj* : of or relating to the movement of physical objects ▪ *kinetic* energy/theory ▪ *kinetic* art [=art that has moving parts]

kin•folk /ˈkɪnˌfoʊk/ *noun* [*plural*] *old-fashioned* : a person's relatives : KIN ▪ He settled in the North, but most of his *kinfolk* remained in the South.

king /ˈkɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **kings**
1 : a male ruler of a country who usually inherits his position and rules for life [*count*] dethrone a *king* ▪ He pledged his loyalty to the *king* and queen. ▪ the reign of *King* James [*noncount*] He was crowned *king*. ▪ He became *king* at a young age.
2 a [*count*] : a boy or man who is highly respected and very successful or popular ▪ an oil *king* ▪ He's widely regarded as the *king* of soul music. **b** [*count*] : a boy or man who is awarded the highest honor for an event or contest ▪ He was voted *king* of the prom. ▪ the homecoming *king* **c** : something that is very powerful or that is considered better than all others [*count*] The lion is known as the *king* of the jungle. [*noncount*] It was a time when comedy was *king*. [=when comedy was the most important or popular form of entertainment]
3 [*count*] : the most important piece in the game of chess ▪ She won the game by checkmating his *king*. — see picture at CHESS
4 [*count*] : a playing card that has a picture of a king and that is worth more than a queen ▪ the *king* of hearts/spades/clubs/diamonds — see picture at PLAYING CARD
fit for a king see [1]FIT

king crab *noun, pl* ~ **crabs** [*count*] : a very large type of crab

king•dom /ˈkɪŋdəm/ *noun, pl* **-doms**
1 [*count*] : a country whose ruler is a king or queen ▪ After Queen Mary I died, her half sister Elizabeth ruled the *kingdom*. ▪ the *Kingdom* of Jordan — often used figuratively ▪ He was one of the most successful planters in the cotton *kingdom*. ▪ The office is his own private *kingdom*.
2 [*noncount*] : the spiritual world of which God is king ▪ the *kingdom* of God/heaven
3 [*count*] : one of the three main divisions into which natural objects are classified ▪ the animal/mineral/plant *kingdom*
to kingdom come *informal* : to a state of complete destruction ▪ He took out his shotgun and threatened to blast/blow them all *to kingdom come*.

king•fish•er /ˈkɪŋˌfɪʃɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a type of brightly colored bird that has a long, thin bill and that catches fish by diving into water

king•ly /ˈkɪŋli/ *adj* **king•li•er**; **-est**
1 : of or relating to a king ▪ a symbol of *kingly* authority/power/rule
2 : typical of or suited for a king ▪ a *kingly* feast ▪ They paid a *kingly* price/fortune for their new house.

king•mak•er /ˈkɪŋˌmeɪkɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a powerful person or group who influences decisions about who will become political candidates ▪ the party's *kingmakers*

king•pin /ˈkɪŋˌpɪn/ *noun, pl* **-pins** [*count*] : a person who controls an organization or activity ▪ *kingpins* of the movie industry ▪ a mob *kingpin* [=a man who controls a gang of criminals] ▪ a drug *kingpin* [=a man in charge of a large group of people who sell illegal drugs]

King's Counsel *noun, pl* ~ **-sels** [*count*] *Brit* : a barrister who is chosen to represent the British royal family in a court of law — used when Britain is ruled by a king; abbr. *KC*

king's evidence *noun*
turn king's evidence *Brit, law* — used with the same meaning as *turn queen's evidence* when Britain is ruled by a king; see QUEEN'S EVIDENCE

king•ship /ˈkɪŋˌʃɪp/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the position of a king ▪ He has all the traits required for *kingship*.

king–size /ˈkɪŋˌsaɪz/ *or* **king–sized** /ˈkɪŋˌsaɪzd/ *adj*
1 : extremely large ▪ a *king-size* sandwich ▪ people with *king-sized* appetites
2 *US, of a bed* : having a size of 76 inches by 80 inches (about 1.9 by 2.0 meters) — compare FULL-SIZE, QUEEN-SIZE, TWIN-SIZE

king's ransom *noun* [*noncount*] *informal* : a very large amount of money ▪ We paid a *king's ransom* for that car.

kink /ˈkɪŋk/ *noun, pl* **kinks** [*count*]
1 : a tight bend or curl in something (such as a rope or hose) — usually + *in* ▪ There was a *kink in* the chain.
2 *chiefly US* : a pain especially in your neck or back that is caused by tight muscles — usually + *in* ▪ I woke up on the bus with a *kink* [=*crick*] *in* my neck.
3 : a small problem or flaw — usually plural ▪ We just installed a new computer program, and we're still ***working/ironing out the kinks***. [=trying to fix the problems]
4 : a strange or unusual part of someone's personality ▪ Everyone's personality has a few *kinks*. [=*quirks*]
– **kink** *verb* **kinks**; **kinked**; **kink•ing** [+ *obj*] *Kink* the hose. [*no obj*] My hair *kinks* when it rains.

kinky /ˈkɪŋki/ *adj* **kink•i•er**; **-est**
1 *of hair* : having many tight bends or curls
2 *informal* : involving or liking unusual sexual behavior ▪ *kinky* sex toys ▪ a *kinky* fantasy ▪ She says her boyfriend is a little *kinky*.
– **kink•i•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

kins•folk /ˈkɪnzˌfoʊk/ *noun* [*plural*] *somewhat old-fashioned* : KINFOLK ▪ returning home to her *kinsfolk*

kin•ship /ˈkɪnˌʃɪp/ *noun*
1 [*noncount*] : the state of being related to the people in your family ▪ the bonds of *kinship*
2 : a feeling of being close or connected to other people [*singular*] He feels a strong *kinship* with other survivors of the war. [*noncount*] feelings of *kinship* between the team's players and their fans

kins•man /ˈkɪnzmən/ *noun, pl* **-men** /-mən/ [*count*] *formal* + *old-fashioned* : a male relative ▪ honoring a dead *kinsman*

kins•wom•an /ˈkɪnzˌwʊmən/ *noun, pl* **-wom•en** /-ˌwɪmən/

[*count*] *formal + old-fashioned* : a female relative ▪ writing a biography of his famous *kinswoman*

ki•osk /ˈkiːˌɑsk/ *noun, pl* **-osks** [*count*]
1 : a small store in a building or on the street where things (such as newspapers or candy) are sold ▪ She sells souvenirs at a *kiosk* in the mall.
2 : a small structure that provides information and services on a computer screen ▪ You can pick up your plane tickets at one of the airport's *kiosks*.

[1]kip /ˈkɪp/ *noun, Brit, informal* : [2]SLEEP [*noncount*] Try to get a bit of *kip*. [*singular*] She went home and had a *kip*. [=*nap*]

[2]kip *verb* **kips**; **kip•ped**; **kip•ping** [*no obj*] *Brit, informal* : [1]SLEEP ▪ Can I *kip* here tonight? — often + *down* ▪ We *kipped down* at a hotel.

kip•per /ˈkɪpɚ/ *noun, pl* **-pers** [*count*] *chiefly Brit* : a herring that has been preserved with salt and then smoked
– **kip•pered** /ˈkɪpɚd/ *adj* ▪ a *kippered* herring

kirk /ˈkɚk/ *noun, pl* **kirks**
1 [*count*] *Scotland* : CHURCH
2 ***the Kirk*** : the national church of Scotland ▪ an elder of *the Kirk*

kis•met /ˈkɪzˌmɛt/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a power that is believed to control what happens in the future : FATE ▪ When we first met each other, we knew it must have been *kismet* (that brought us together).

[1]kiss /ˈkɪs/ *verb* **kiss•es**; **kissed**; **kiss•ing**
1 a : to touch (someone) with your lips as a greeting or as a way of showing love or sexual attraction [+ *obj*] He *kissed* her on the cheek. = He *kissed* her cheek. ▪ They *kissed* each other passionately. ▪ She *kissed* him good night/goodbye. [*no obj*] I'll never forget the night we first *kissed*. **b** [+ *obj*] : to touch (something) with your lips ▪ When he got off the plane he knelt down and *kissed* the ground.
2 [+ *obj*] : to touch (something) gently or lightly ▪ The tree's branches *kissed* the ground below.
kiss and make up *informal* : to become friendly again after a fight or disagreement ▪ It's time for the mayor and the police chief to *kiss and make up*.
kiss and tell : to tell people about the private details of your romantic relationships ▪ I never *kiss and tell*.
kiss ass *US, informal + impolite* **1** *or* ***kiss someone's ass*** *or Brit* ***kiss someone's arse*** : to be nice to people in order to make them like you or give something to you ▪ He says he doesn't want a promotion if he has to *kiss ass* to get it. **2** ***kiss my ass*** — used to show that you are angry at someone ▪ He told me to leave, and I told him he could *kiss my ass*!
kiss off [*phrasal verb*] *informal* **1** *impolite* — used in angry speech to tell someone to leave and stop bothering you ▪ She told me to *kiss off* when I asked her to dance. **2** ***kiss (someone or something) off*** *or* ***kiss off (someone or something)*** : to reject or ignore (someone or something) in a casual or careless way ▪ My boss *kissed off* my ideas for a new product. **3** ***kiss (something) off*** *or* ***kiss off (something)*** : to accept the fact that you have lost or will never get (something) ▪ You can *kiss off* [=*give up on*] any hope of getting tickets to the game. — see also KISS-OFF
kiss (something) goodbye *informal* : to accept the fact that you have lost or will never get something ▪ They can *kiss* their vacation plans *goodbye* now. [=their vacation plans are now ruined] ▪ If you don't start working harder, you can *kiss* that promotion *goodbye*. [=you won't be getting that promotion]
kiss up to [*phrasal verb*] ***kiss up to (someone)*** *US, informal + disapproving* : to try to make (someone) like you ▪ She is always *kissing up to* [=*sucking up to*] the boss.
– **kiss•able** /ˈkɪsəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ soft, *kissable* lips

[2]kiss *noun, pl* **kisses** [*count*] : the act of kissing someone or something ▪ He gave her a *kiss* on the cheek. ▪ She greeted him with a hug and a *kiss*. ▪ a tender/gentle/passionate *kiss* — see also FRENCH KISS
blow (someone) a kiss : to kiss the palm of your hand, put your hand flat in front of your mouth, and then blow on it toward (someone) ▪ She *blew me a kiss* and waved goodbye.
throw (someone) a kiss : to kiss the palm of your hand and move your hand quickly away from your mouth in a waving motion toward (someone)

kiss–and–tell /ˈkɪsn̩dˈtɛl/ *adj, always used before a noun* : telling private details about romantic relationships ▪ an actress who has written a *kiss-and-tell* book about the men she knew in her youth ▪ a *kiss-and-tell* biography

kiss•er /ˈkɪsɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]
1 : a person who kisses ▪ He's a great *kisser*. [=he is very good at kissing]
2 *old-fashioned slang* : MOUTH ▪ Punch him in the *kisser*.

kissing cousin *noun, pl* ~ **-ins** [*count*] *old-fashioned* : a person and especially a relative who you know well enough to kiss in a formal way when you meet — often used figuratively to describe two things that are similar or closely related ▪ He says politics and show business are *kissing cousins*.

kiss of death *noun* [*singular*] : something that causes something to fail or be ruined — usually used with *the* ▪ Bad reviews can be *the kiss of death* for a new movie.

kiss–off /ˈkɪsˌɑːf/ *noun, pl* **-offs** [*count*] *chiefly US, informal* : a quick and rude way of telling someone to go away ▪ The song is a *kiss-off* to his ex-girlfriend. — see also *kiss off* at [1]KISS

kiss of life *noun*
the kiss of life *Brit* : MOUTH-TO-MOUTH RESUSCITATION

[1]kit /ˈkɪt/ *noun, pl* **kits**
1 [*count*] : a set of tools or supplies that a person uses for a particular purpose or activity ▪ a makeup *kit* ▪ shaving/sewing *kits* ▪ an electrician's tool *kit* — see also DRUM KIT
2 [*count*] : a set of parts that are put together to build something ▪ He built the shed from a *kit*. ▪ We bought some goldfish and an aquarium ***starter kit*** [=a set of things needed to set up an aquarium]
3 [*count*] : a collection of written materials about a particular subject ▪ a tourist information *kit* — see also PRESS KIT
4 [*noncount*] *Brit* : clothing or equipment used for a particular purpose ▪ The team wore their new *kit*. ▪ cricket/football/sports *kit*
first aid kit see FIRST AID
get/take your kit off *Brit, informal* : to take off your clothes ▪ She agreed to *get her kit off* for the photos.
the whole (kit and) caboodle see CABOODLE

[2]kit *verb* **kits**; **kit•ted**; **kit•ting**
kit out/up [*phrasal verb*] ***kit out/up (someone or something)*** *or* ***kit (someone or something) out/up*** *Brit* : to give (someone or something) the clothing or equipment needed for a particular activity — usually used as *(be) kitted out/up* ▪ The team *was kitted out* in new uniforms. ▪ The room *was kitted out* with balloons and decorations for the party.

kitch•en /ˈkɪʧən/ *noun, pl* **-ens** [*count*] : a room in which food is cooked ▪ She wants a house with a large *kitchen*. — often used before another noun ▪ *kitchen* counters/cabinets/chairs ▪ They sat down at the *kitchen* table. ▪ When he goes on vacation he takes along ***everything but the kitchen sink*** [=an extremely large number of things] — see picture on next page; see also SOUP KITCHEN

kitch•en•ette /ˌkɪʧəˈnɛt/ *noun, pl* **-ettes** [*count*] : a small kitchen or a part of a room where food is cooked ▪ a hotel room with a *kitchenette*

kitchen garden *noun, pl* ~ **-dens** [*count*] *chiefly Brit* : a garden where you grow fruits and vegetables for your own use

kitchen paper *noun* [*noncount*] *Brit* : soft paper that is used for cleaning, wiping up liquid, etc. ▪ a roll of *kitchen paper* [=(*US*) *paper towels*] — called also (*Brit*) *kitchen roll*, (*Brit*) *kitchen towel*

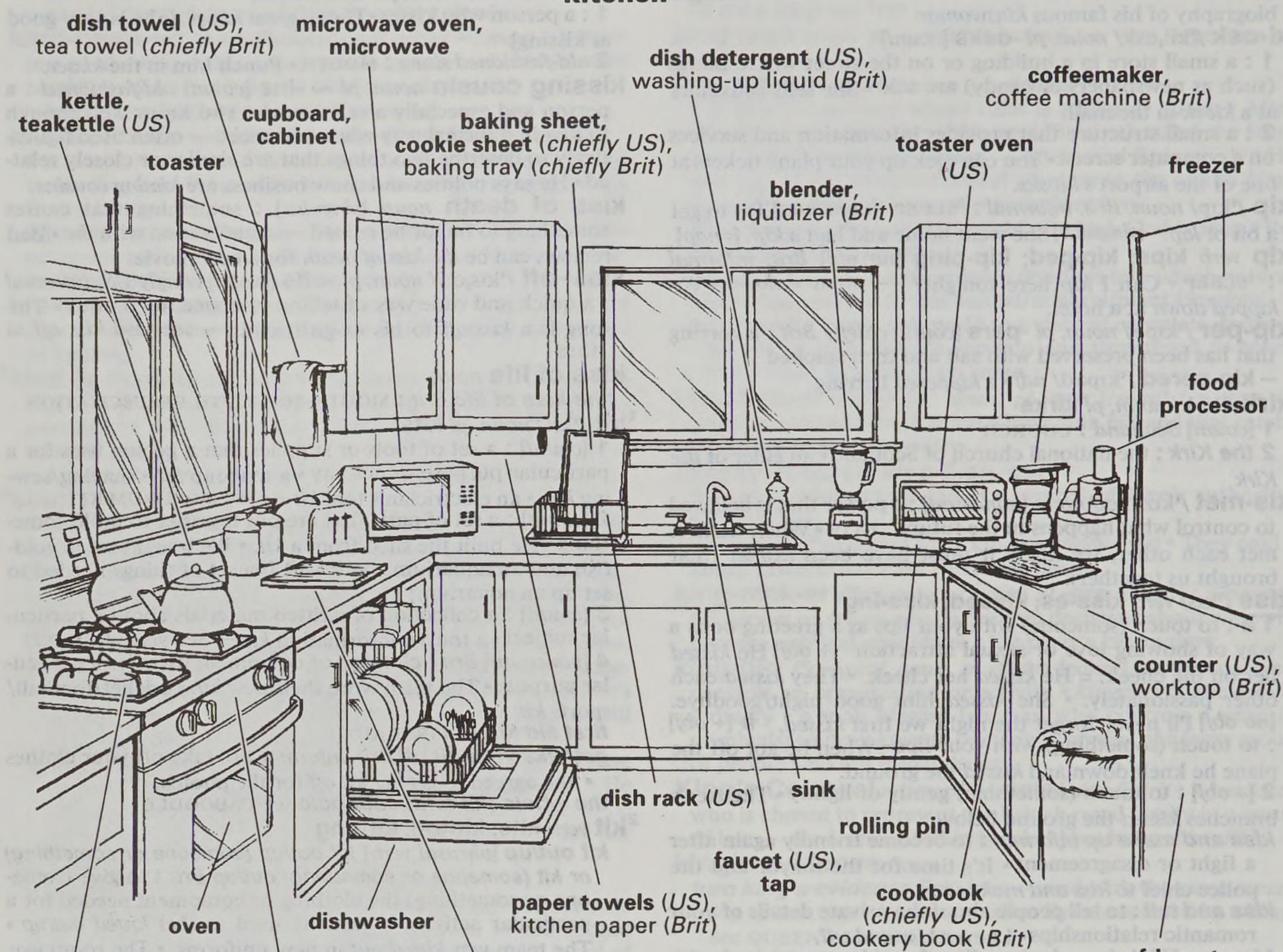
kite /ˈkaɪt/ *noun, pl* **kites** [*count*]
1 : a toy that is made of a light frame covered with cloth, paper, or plastic and that is flown in the air at the end of a long string ▪ The children were flying *kites*.
2 : a type of hawk that has long, narrow wings
as high as a kite *informal* : greatly affected by alcohol or drugs : very drunk or intoxicated ▪ The driver was *as high as a kite*.
go fly a kite *US, informal + old-fashioned* — used to tell someone who is bothering you to go away ▪ When I asked her what was wrong, she told me to *go fly a kite*.

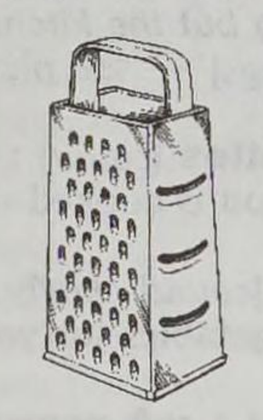
kith /ˈkɪθ/ *noun*
kith and kin *old-fashioned* : friends and relatives ▪ They invited all their *kith and kin* to their new home.

kitsch /ˈkɪʧ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : things (such as movies or works of art) that are of low quality and that many people find amusing and enjoyable ▪ The restaurant is decorated with 1950s furniture and *kitsch* from old TV shows.
– **kitschy** /ˈkɪʧi/ *adj* **kitsch•i•er**; **-est** ▪ *kitschy* horror films

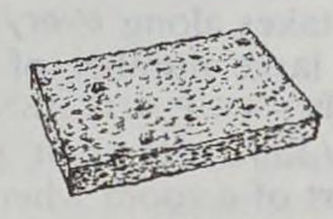
kit•ten /ˈkɪtn̩/ *noun, pl* **-tens** [*count*] : a young cat
have kittens *Brit, informal* : to become very nervous or upset about something ▪ They *had kittens* when they saw the mess we made.

kitchen





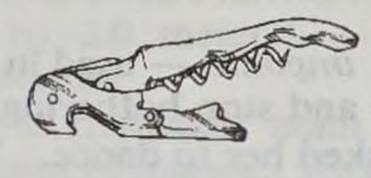
grater



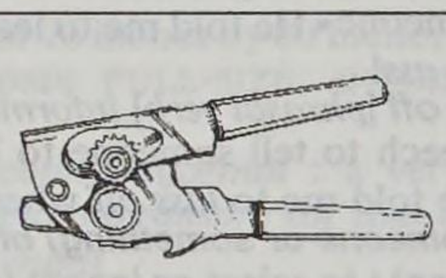
sponge



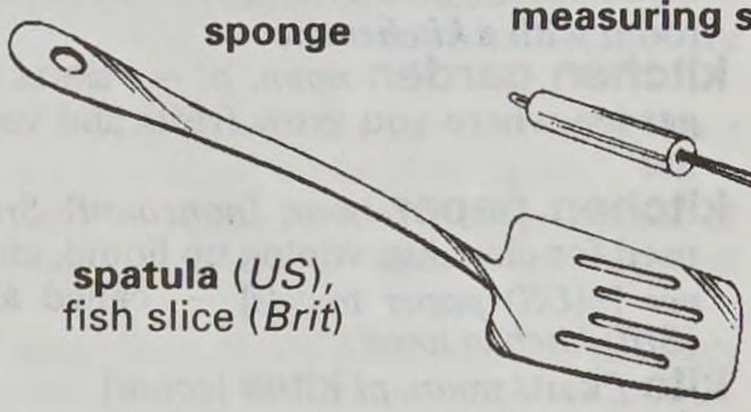
measuring spoons



bottle opener

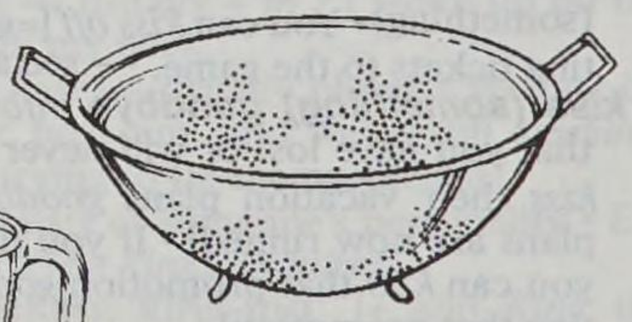


can opener (*chiefly US*), tin opener (*Brit*)

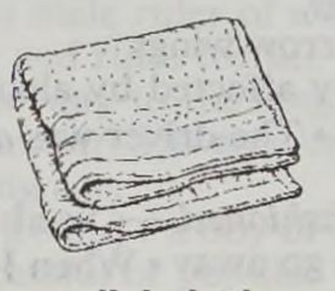


spatula (*US*), fish slice (*Brit*)

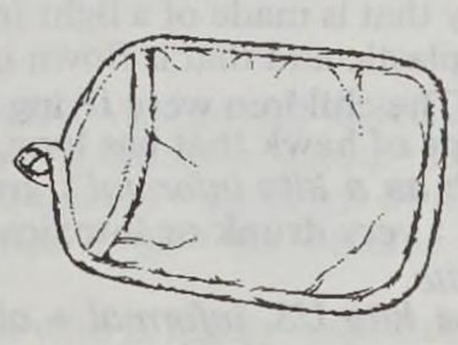
whisk



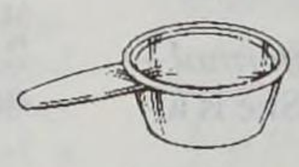
colander



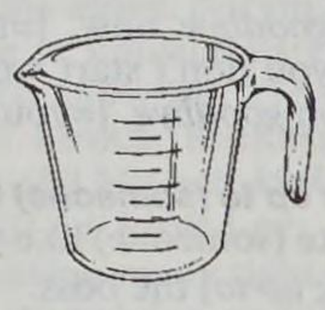
dishcloth



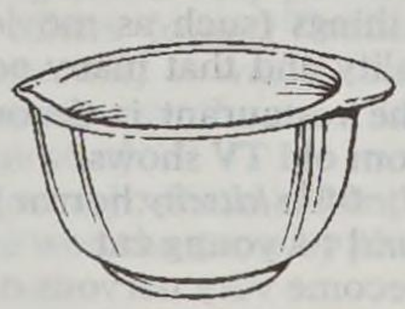
potholder (*US*)



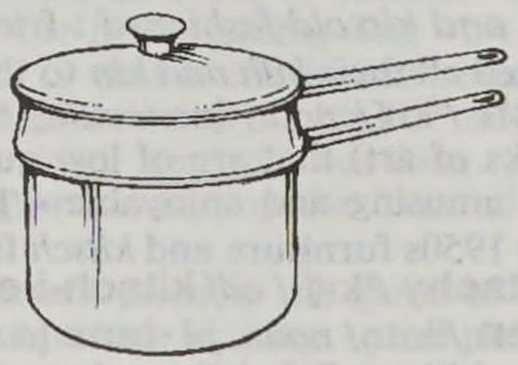
measuring cup (*US*)



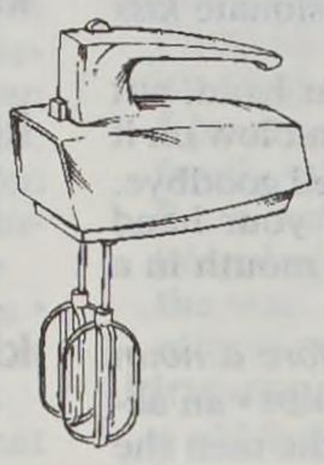
measuring cup (*US*), measuring jug (*Brit*)



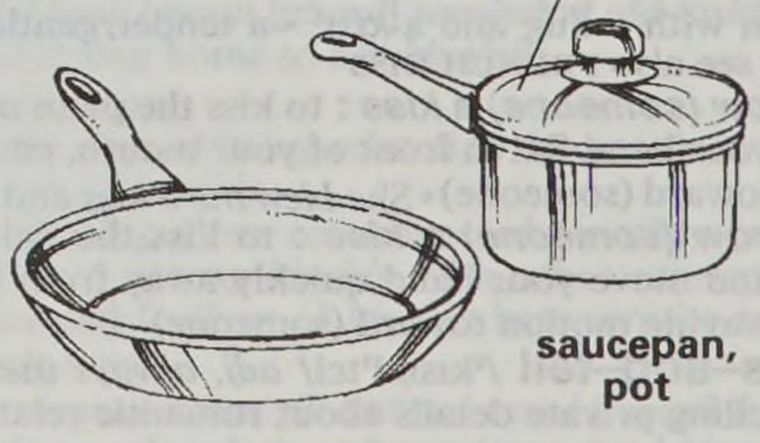
mixing bowl



double boiler



mixer



saucepan, pot

frying pan, skillet (*chiefly US*)

kit•ten•ish /ˈkɪtn̩ɪʃ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : cute and playful in a way that attracts attention ▪ *kittenish* young women

kit•ty /ˈkɪti/ *noun, pl* **-ties** [*count*]
1 *informal* : a cat or kitten ▪ Come here, *kitty, kitty*.
2 : the amount of money that can be won in a card game and that is made up of all the bets added together
3 : an amount of money that has been collected from many people for some purpose ▪ She had a $10 million *kitty* for her campaign.

kit•ty–cor•ner /ˈkɪtiˌkoɚnɚ/ *adv, US* — used to describe two things that are located across from each other on opposite corners ▪ The store is *kitty-corner* from the park.

ki•wi /ˈkiːˌwiː/ *noun, pl* **-wis** [*count*]
1 ***Kiwi*** *informal* : a person who lives in or is from New Zealand
2 : a bird from New Zealand that cannot fly and that has a long bill
3 : KIWIFRUIT

ki•wi•fruit /ˈkiːˌwiːˌfruːt/ *noun, pl* **kiwifruit** *or* **kiwifruits** [*count, noncount*] : a small fruit that has green flesh, black seeds, and brown, hairy skin — see color picture on page C5

KJV *abbr* King James Version ✧ The King James Version is the version of the Christian Bible that is used for quotations in this dictionary.

KKK *abbr* Ku Klux Klan

kl *abbr* kiloliter

Klan /ˈklæn/ *noun*
the Klan : KU KLUX KLAN ▪ a member of *the Klan* ▪ a *Klan* rally

Klans•man /ˈklænzmən/ *noun, pl* **Klans•men** [*count*] : a member of the Ku Klux Klan

Klee•nex /ˈkliːˌnɛks/ *trademark* — used for a paper tissue (sense 1)

klep•to•ma•nia /ˌklɛptəˈmeɪnijə/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a mental illness in which you have a strong desire to steal things
– **klep•to•ma•ni•ac** /ˌklɛptəˈmeɪniˌæk/ *noun, pl* **-acs** [*count*]

kludge *or* **kluge** /ˈkluːʤ/ *noun, pl* **kludg•es** *or* **klug•es** [*count*] : an awkward or inferior computer system or program that is created quickly to solve a problem
– **kludgy** *also* **kludgey** /ˈkluːʤi/ *adj* **kludg•i•er**; **-est** ▪ a *kludgy* computer system

klutz /ˈklʌts/ *noun, pl* **klutz•es** [*count*] *chiefly US, informal* : a person who often drops things, falls down, etc. : a clumsy person ▪ I'm a complete *klutz* on the dance floor.
– **klutzy** /ˈklʌtsi/ *adj* **klutz•i•er**; **-est**

km *abbr* kilometer

knack /ˈnæk/ *noun* [*singular*] : an ability, talent, or special skill needed to do something — usually + *for* or *of* ▪ They have a *knack for* telling interesting stories. ▪ Once you get the *knack of* riding a bicycle [=once you learn how to ride a bicycle], you'll never lose it.

knack•ered /ˈnækɚd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *Brit, informal* : very tired or exhausted ▪ She was too *knackered* to join them for dinner.

knap•sack /ˈnæpˌsæk/ *noun, pl* **-sacks** [*count*] *chiefly US* : BACKPACK

knave /ˈneɪv/ *noun, pl* **knaves** [*count*] *old-fashioned*
1 : a dishonest man ▪ fools and *knaves*
2 : a playing card that ranks below a queen and above a 10 : JACK ▪ the *knave* of hearts
– **knav•ish** /ˈneɪvɪʃ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ a *knavish* trick

knead /ˈniːd/ *verb* **kneads**; **knead•ed**; **knead•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to prepare (dough) by pressing a mixture of flour, water, etc., with your hands ▪ *Knead* the dough until it is smooth.
2 : to press and squeeze (a person's muscles) with your hands ▪ He *kneaded* [=*massaged*] the muscles in my neck.

[1]knee /ˈniː/ *noun, pl* **knees** [*count*]
1 : the joint that bends at the middle of your leg ▪ I fell down and hurt my *knee*. ▪ She suffered a serious *knee* injury. ▪ His *knees* trembled/shook with fear. ▪ She ***dropped/fell/sank to her knees*** [=she knelt down] and begged for forgiveness. = She ***got down on her knees*** and begged for forgiveness. ▪ He ***got/went down on one knee*** and proposed to her. ▪ If you want to clean the floor properly, you have to ***get down on your (hands and) knees*** [=you have to kneel down on the floor] and start scrubbing. — see picture at HUMAN
2 : the upper part of your leg when you are sitting ▪ His little granddaughter sat ***on his knee***.
3 : the part that covers the knee on a pair of pants ▪ Her jeans had holes at the *knees*.
4 : a forceful hit with a bent knee ▪ She gave him a *knee* to the stomach. [=she kneed him in the stomach]
bring (someone) to his/her knees : to completely defeat or overwhelm (someone) ▪ The general vowed he would *bring* the enemy *to their knees*. — often used figuratively ▪ The increase in oil prices could *bring* the economy *to its knees*. [=it could greatly hurt the economy]
learn (something) at your mother's knee : to learn (something) when you are very young ▪ I learned to speak French *at my mother's knee*.
on bended knee/knees see [1]BEND
weak at/in the knees see WEAK
– see also BEE'S KNEES

[2]knee *verb* **knees**; **kneed**; **knee•ing** [+ *obj*] : to hit (a person) with your knee ▪ His attacker *kneed* him in the stomach.

[1]knee•cap /ˈniːˌkæp/ *noun, pl* **-caps** [*count*] : a flat bone on the front of your knee — called also *patella*; see picture at HUMAN

[2]kneecap *verb* **-caps**; **-capped**; **-cap•ping** [+ *obj*] : to shoot or break the knee of (someone) as a form of attack or punishment ▪ They *kneecapped* one of the hostages.

knee–deep /ˈniːˈdiːp/ *adj*
1 : reaching as high as your knees ▪ The car was stuck in *knee-deep* snow.
2 : standing in something that reaches your knees — usually + *in* ▪ We were *knee-deep in* snow. — often used figuratively ▪ We were *knee-deep in* work. [=we were very busy]
– **knee–deep** *adv* ▪ We stood *knee-deep* in snow.

knee–high /ˈniːˈhaɪ/ *adj* : reaching as high as your knees ▪ *knee-high* boots ▪ The grass is *knee-high*. ▪ (*informal*) I haven't seen you since you were ***knee-high to a grasshopper***. [=since you were very young and small]

knee–jerk /ˈniːˌʤɚk/ *adj, always used before a noun* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : occurring quickly and without thought ▪ It was a *knee-jerk* [=*automatic*] reaction.
2 *disapproving* : often reacting quickly and without thought ▪ He said that they were just a bunch of *knee-jerk* liberals.

kneel /ˈniːl/ *verb* **kneels**; **knelt** /ˈnɛlt/ *also chiefly US* **kneeled**; **kneel•ing** [*no obj*] : to move your body so that one or both of your knees are on the floor ▪ The prisoner was ordered to *kneel* (down) before the king. : to be in a position in which both of your knees are on the floor ▪ She was *kneeling* on the floor beside her child. ▪ He was *kneeling* in front of the altar and praying. — see picture at POSITION

knee–length /ˈniːˌlɛŋkθ/ *adj, of clothing* : reaching the knees ▪ a *knee-length* skirt ▪ *knee-length* socks

knee–slap•per /ˈniːˌslæpɚ/ *noun, pl* **-pers** [*count*] *US, informal* : a very funny joke or story ▪ That's a real *knee-slapper*.

knee sock *noun, pl* ~ **socks** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a sock that reaches your knee — see color picture on page C13

knees–up /ˈniːzˌʌp/ *noun, pl* **-ups** [*count*] *Brit, informal* : a noisy party usually with dancing ▪ We had a *knees-up* to celebrate his retirement.

knell /ˈnɛl/ *noun, pl* **knells** [*count*] *literary* : a sound of a bell when it is rung slowly because someone has died ✧ A ***death knell*** is a sign or indication that something will fail or end soon. ▪ The mistake was the *death knell* for his campaign. ▪ Many people thought that the Internet would ***sound/ring/toll the death knell*** for newspapers. [=cause the end of newspapers]

knelt *past tense and past participle of* KNEEL

knew *past tense of* [1]KNOW

knick•er•bock•ers /ˈnɪkɚˌbɑːkɚz/ *noun* [*plural*] *Brit* : KNICKERS 1

knick•ers /ˈnɪkɚz/ *noun* [*plural*]
1 *US* : loose-fitting pants that reach just below the knee — called also (*Brit*) *knickerbockers*
2 *Brit* : PANTIES
get your knickers in a twist *Brit, informal* : to become upset about something that is not very important ▪ Don't *get your knickers in a twist*: I'll be ready in a minute!

knick•knack /ˈnɪkˌnæk/ *noun, pl* **-knacks** [*count*] : a small object used for decoration ▪ The shelves were filled with *knickknacks*.

[1]knife /ˈnaɪf/ *noun, pl* **knives** /ˈnaɪvz/ [*count*] : a usually sharp blade attached to a handle that is used for cutting or as a weapon ▪ Each dinner guest gets two forks, a *knife*, and a spoon. ▪ He pulled/drew a *knife* on me and threatened to stab me with it. — see picture at PLACE SETTING; see also BUT-

TER KNIFE, CARVING KNIFE, PALETTE KNIFE, PARING KNIFE, STEAK KNIFE, UTILITY KNIFE

like a (hot) knife through butter *informal* : very quickly and easily ▪ The bill passed through the senate *like a hot knife through butter*.

the knives are out (for someone) — used to say that people are ready to blame or punish someone for something often in a way that is unfair ▪ They lost yet another important game, and now the *knives are out* for their coach.

twist/turn the knife (in the wound) *informal* : to say or do things that cause more pain to someone who is already suffering ▪ Any more cuts in government aid to these poor people will be *twisting the knife in the wound*.

under the knife *informal* : having a medical operation ▪ ***I'm going under the knife*** [=having surgery] tomorrow.

[2]knife *verb* **knifes; knifed; knif•ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to injure (someone) with a knife ▪ He died after being *knifed* in the chest.

2 [*no obj*] : to move easily and quickly like a knife cutting through something ▪ ships *knifing* through the waves

knife–edge /'naɪf,ɛʤ/ *noun* [*singular*] : something that is very narrow or sharp ▪ The path was a *knife-edge* on the side of a steep hill.

on a/the knife-edge : in a dangerous or important situation in which two very different results are possible ▪ a region resting *on a knife-edge* after several wars ▪ The election results hung *on a knife-edge*. ▪ living *on the knife-edge* of poverty

knife•point /'naɪf,pɔɪnt/ *noun*

at knifepoint — used to describe a situation in which someone is being threatened by a person with a knife ▪ They were robbed *at knifepoint*. [=someone robbed them while threatening them with a knife]

[1]knight /'naɪt/ *noun, pl* **knights** [*count*]

1 : a soldier in the past who had a high social rank and who fought while riding a horse and usually wearing armor

2 : a man who is given a special honor and the title of *Sir* by the king or queen of England ▪ He was made/dubbed a *knight*.

3 : a chess piece shaped like a horse's head — see picture at CHESS

knight in shining armor **1** : a man who behaves in a very brave way ▪ The firefighter who rescued us was our *knight in shining armor*. **2** : a man who is the perfect romantic partner for a woman ▪ She is still waiting for her *knight in shining armor*.

– see also WHITE KNIGHT

– **knight•ly** /'naɪtli/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ *knightly* adventures/quests

[2]knight *verb* **knights; knight•ed; knight•ing** [+ *obj*] : to give (a man) the rank of a knight ▪ He is to be *knighted* by the Queen for his career as an actor.

knight–er•rant /'naɪt'erənt/ *noun, pl* **knights–errant** [*count*] : a knight who traveled in search of adventures in the Middle Ages

knight•hood /'naɪt,hʊd/ *noun, pl* **-hoods** : the rank or title of a knight [*count*] The Queen awarded a *knighthood* to the famous actor. [*noncount*] For their bravery, they were rewarded with *knighthood*.

[1]knit /'nɪt/ *verb* **knits; knit** *or* **knit•ted; knit•ting**

1 : to make (a piece of clothing) from yarn or thread by using long needles or a special machine [+ *obj*] She *knit* a sweater for me. = She *knit/knitted* me a sweater. [*no obj*] He likes to *knit*.

2 [+ *obj*] **a** : to closely join or combine (things or people) ▪ Her novels *knit* (together) science and fantasy. ▪ a style that *knits* together material from many different sources **b** : to form (something) by bringing people or things together ▪ a town *knit/knitted* together by farming — see also CLOSE-KNIT, TIGHT-KNIT

3 [*no obj*] *of a bone* : to grow together and heal after being broken ▪ It will take some time for the broken bones to *knit* (*together*).

knit your brow/brows : to move your eyebrows together in a way that shows that you are thinking about something or are worried, angry, etc. ▪ She *knit her brow* and asked what I was doing.

– **knit** *or* **knitted** *adj* ▪ a red *knit* shirt ▪ a *knitted* blouse ▪ closely *knit* communities [=communities in which people care about each other very much] ▪ a *knitted* cap – **knitter** *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*] ▪ She is a very talented *knitter*.

[2]knit *noun, pl* **knits** [*count*] : a piece of clothing that has been made by knitting ▪ cotton *knits*

knitting *noun*

1 [*noncount*] : the action or process of knitting clothing ▪ She enjoys *knitting*.

2 [*singular*] : materials that are being used by someone who is knitting ▪ She keeps her *knitting* in the closet.

knitting needle *noun, pl* ~ **needles** [*count*] : one of two or more long, thin, usually metal or plastic sticks that are pointed at one end and used for knitting — see picture at SEWING

knit•wear /'nɪt,weɚ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : knitted clothing ▪ a few pieces of *knitwear*

knives *plural of* [1]KNIFE

knob /'nɑːb/ *noun, pl* **knobs** [*count*]

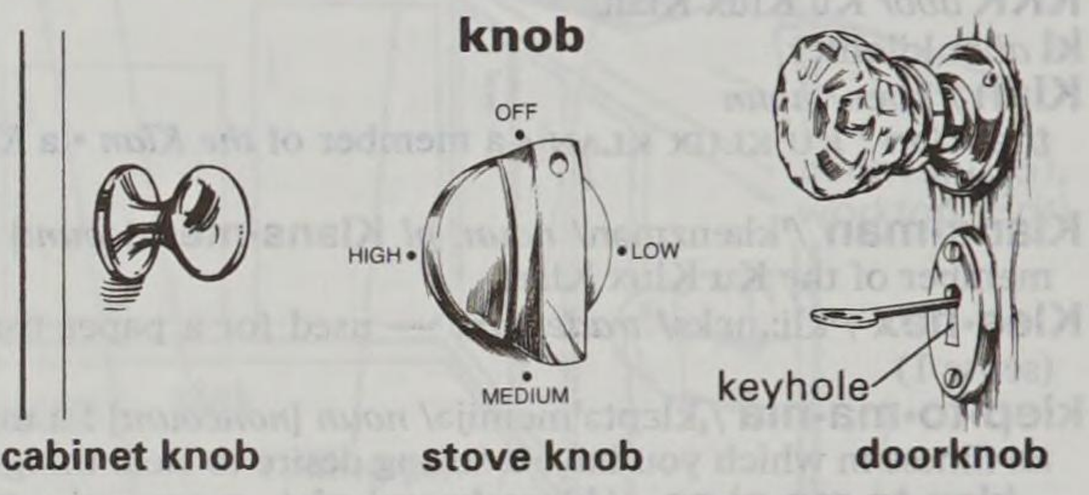
1 : a round switch on a television, radio, etc. ▪ The left *knob* [=*dial*] controls the volume.

2 : a round handle on a door, drawer, etc. ▪ The *knob* [=*doorknob*] is stuck and I can't open the door! ▪ a carved walking stick with a silver *knob*

3 *chiefly Brit* : a small lump or piece of something ▪ a *knob* of butter/coal

4 *Brit, informal* + *impolite* : PENIS

with knobs on *Brit, informal* : with extra things added ▪ The movie is just an ordinary thriller *with knobs on*.



knob•bly /'nɑːbli/ *adj* **knob•bli•er; -est** *chiefly Brit* : KNOBBY ▪ a *knobbly* mattress ▪ *knobbly* knees

knob•by /'nɑːbi/ *adj* **knob•bi•er; -est** *chiefly US*

1 : covered with small bumps ▪ *knobby* tires ▪ a *knobby* mattress

2 : forming hard rounded lumps ▪ *knobby* knees

[1]knock /'nɑːk/ *verb* **knocks; knocked; knock•ing**

1 [*no obj*] : to hit something (such as a door) with the knuckles of your hand or with a hard object (such as a knocker) in order to get people's attention ▪ I heard someone *knocking* (at the door). — usually + *on* ▪ I *knocked on* the door but no one answered. ▪ He *knocked on* the table to call the meeting to order. ▪ Campaign workers have been ***knocking on doors*** throughout the neighborhood. [=have been going to each house or apartment in the neighborhood to talk with the people who live there] — sometimes used figuratively ▪ a talented young singer who is ***knocking on the door of*** success [=who is very close to achieving success]

2 *always followed by an adverb, adjective, or preposition* [+ *obj*] : to hit (something or someone) in a forceful way ▪ The ball *knocked* him on the chin. ▪ *knock* one stick against another = *knock* two sticks together ▪ She *knocked* the glass from his hand. ▪ He *knocked* the baseball over the fence. ▪ The ball hit him in the mouth and *knocked* out one of his teeth. ▪ The wind *knocked* him backwards. ▪ The wind almost *knocked* him off his feet. = The wind almost *knocked* him to the ground. [=the wind hit him so hard that he almost fell to the ground] ▪ The collision *knocked* him unconscious/senseless. [=caused him to become unconscious] ▪ The collision ***knocked him flying***. [=sent him flying through the air]

3 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* : to touch or hit someone or something in a way that is not planned or intended [*no obj*] The dog *knocked* against the lamp. ▪ My knee accidentally *knocked* against the table. ▪ Skaters were *knocking* into each other all over the ice. ▪ I kept *knocking* against him during the bumpy ride. = He and I kept *knocking* together during the bumpy ride. [+ *obj*] I accidentally *knocked* my knee against the table.

4 [+ *obj*] : to make (something, such as a hole) by hitting something ▪ He used a hammer to *knock* a hole in the wall.

5 [+ *obj*] *informal* : to criticize (someone or something) ▪ He's always *knocking* the government. ▪ ***Don't knock it until you've tried it***. [=wait until you try something before criticizing it]

6 [*no obj*] : to produce a repeated loud noise ▪ The engine was *knocking*. ▪ The pipes were *knocking*.

heart is knocking *informal* ✧ If your *heart is knocking* it is beating very hard, usually because you are nervous or excited. ▪ His *heart was knocking* in his chest.

knees are knocking *informal* ✧ If your *knees are knocking* they are shaking because you are nervous or afraid. ▪ Her *knees were knocking* in terror.

knock around *also Brit* ***knock about*** [*phrasal verb*] *informal* **1 a *knock around/about (a place)* *or* *knock around/about*** : to spend time in (a place) without having a goal or purpose : to wander around (a place) ▪ He spent the summer *knocking around* (in) Europe. **b *knock around/about with (someone)*** *Brit* : to spend time with (another person) ▪ She was *knocking around* [=*hanging around*] *with* her brother. **2 a** : to be considered or discussed in an informal way over a period of time ▪ These ideas have been *knocking around* [=*kicking around*] for years. **b *knock around (something)*** *or* ***knock (something) around*** : to consider or talk about (ideas, plans, etc.) in an informal way ▪ We *knocked* the plan *around* for a while before we came to an agreement. ▪ They *knocked around* several possible names for the new car. **3 *knock (someone) around/about*** : to beat or hit (someone) badly or repeatedly ▪ The boy was getting *knocked around* by bullies. — often used figuratively ▪ I really got *knocked around* at the last staff meeting. **4** *chiefly Brit* : to be lying somewhere within a general area or place ▪ That jacket is *knocking about/around* here somewhere.

knock back *informal* **1 *knock (something) back*** *or* ***knock back (something)*** : to drink or swallow (an alcoholic drink) quickly ▪ He stopped at a bar after work to *knock back* a few beers. **2 *knock (someone) back*** : to cost (someone) a lot of money ▪ That car must have *knocked* you *back* quite a bit. [=you must have spent a lot of money on that car]

knock down [*phrasal verb*] **1 *knock (someone or something) down*** *or* ***knock down (someone or something)*** **a** : to cause (someone or something) to fall to the ground ▪ He hit him on the chin and *knocked* him *down*. ▪ The storm *knocked down* [=*knocked over*] several big trees. ▪ Rowdy fans *knocked down* the fence. ▪ We're planning to *knock down* [=*remove, demolish*] a wall to create a bigger room. **b** *Brit* : to hit and injure or kill (a person or animal) with a vehicle ▪ She was *knocked down* [=(*Brit*) *knocked over*, (*US*) *hit*] by a car while crossing the street. **2** *informal* **a *knock (something) down*** *or* ***knock down (something)*** : to reduce or lower (a price, an amount, etc.) ▪ They *knocked down* the price of the house by 10 percent. ▪ He wanted $50 for it but I managed to *knock* the price *down* to $45. **b *knock (someone) down*** : to cause or persuade (someone) to reduce a price ▪ He wanted $50 for it but I managed to *knock* him *down* to $45. **3 *knock down (an amount of money)*** *US, informal* : to receive (an amount of money) as income or salary ▪ He *knocks down* almost a million dollars a year. **4 *knock down (a shot)*** *or* ***knock (a shot) down*** *basketball* : to succeed in making (a shot) especially from a long distance ▪ He was *knocking down* jump shots. **5 *knock (something) down*** *or* ***knock down (something)*** *chiefly US, informal* : to say no to (an idea, plan, proposal, etc.) : REJECT ▪ His boss *knocked down* [=*shot down*] all of his ideas. **6 *knock (something) down*** *or* ***knock down (something)*** *US* : to take (something) apart ▪ We *knocked* the bed *down* so it would fit in the truck.

knock heads *US, informal* **1** : to argue or disagree ▪ The two of them *knocked heads* soon after they started working together. **2** : to use angry or forceful methods to control or punish people ▪ I am going in there and *knock* some *heads* if they don't start behaving. — often + *together* ▪ I am going to go in there and *knock* their *heads together* if they don't start behaving.

knock in [*phrasal verb*] ***knock (a run or runner) in*** *or* ***knock in (a run or runner)*** *baseball* : to cause (a run or runner) to score ▪ He *knocked in* [=*batted in, drove in*] a run in the second inning with a double to left field.

knock off [*phrasal verb*] *informal* **1 *knock off*** *or* ***knock (something) off*** *or* ***knock off (something)*** : to stop doing something (such as work) ▪ We are going to *knock off* for lunch in 10 minutes. ▪ The boss said we could *knock off* early today. = The boss said we could ***knock off work*** early today. — often used as a command to tell someone to stop doing something immediately ▪ *Knock off* your fighting right now! ▪ I told you two kids to ***knock it off***! **2 *knock (something) off*** *or* ***knock off (something)*** **a** : to do or make (something) very quickly ▪ He *knocked off* 10 paintings in 4 days. ▪ We are planning to *knock* this project *off* in a weekend. **b** : to take (an amount) away from something ▪ He agreed to *knock off* 10 dollars from the price. [=to reduce the price by 10 dollars] ▪ This shortcut will *knock* at least 100 miles *off* the journey. **c** *US* : to steal money or things from (a bank or store) ▪ They *knocked off* [=*knocked over*] a jewelry store. **d** *chiefly Brit* : to steal (something) ▪ They *knocked off* a lot of valuable merchandise. **e** *US* : to make a cheaper copy of (something) ▪ Several other companies *knocked off* their dress design. — see also KNOCK-OFF **3 *knock (someone) off*** *or* ***knock off (someone)*** **a** : to kill (someone) ▪ He tried to *knock off* two men who owed him money. ▪ Did she really want to *knock* her husband *off*? **b** *US* : to defeat (someone) ▪ They *knocked off* the best team in the league.

knock on wood see ¹WOOD

knock out [*phrasal verb*] **1 *knock (someone or something) out*** *or* ***knock out (someone or something)*** **a** : to make (a person or animal) unconscious ▪ The drug *knocked* him *out*. ▪ The force of the collision *knocked* him *out*. [=*knocked* him *cold*] ▪ He hit his head against the table when he fell and ***knocked himself out***. **b** *boxing* : to defeat (an opponent) with a punch that knocks the opponent down for a certain amount of time ▪ He was *knocked out* in the third round. — see also ¹KNOCKOUT 1 **c** : to defeat (an opponent) in a competition so that the opponent cannot continue ▪ My team was the favorite to win the championship, but we were *knocked out* (of the competition) in the third round. **d** *baseball* : to cause (a pitcher) to be removed from the game by getting many hits ▪ The starting pitcher was *knocked out* (of the game) in the fourth inning. **2 *knock (something) out*** *or* ***knock out (something)*** **a** : to cause (something) to stop working ▪ Missiles *knocked out* the television station. ▪ The storm *knocked out* electricity across the state. **b** : to produce (something) very quickly ▪ a musical group that just keeps *knocking out* hit records **3 *knock (yourself) out*** *informal* **a** : to make (yourself) very tired by doing work ▪ They *knocked* themselves *out* trying to build a garage. ▪ I *knocked* myself *out* [=I worked very hard] to get the job done on time. **b** *US* — used to tell someone to go ahead and do something ▪ "Do you mind if I use this exercise machine first?" "*Knock yourself out*." **4 *knock (someone) out*** *informal* : to make a very strong and good impression on (someone) ▪ Her beauty just *knocks* me *out*. [=I think she is very beautiful] ▪ Everyone was *knocked out* by his suggestion. [=everyone liked his suggestion very much] — see also ¹KNOCKOUT 2

knock over [*phrasal verb*] **1 *knock (someone or something) over*** *or* ***knock over (someone or something)*** **a** : to cause (someone or something) to fall to the ground ▪ The dog *knocked over* the lamp. ▪ The wind was so strong that it almost *knocked* her *over*. [=knocked her down] **b** *Brit* : to hit and injure or kill (a person or animal) with a vehicle ▪ The dog was *knocked over* [=(*Brit*) *knocked down*, (*US*) *hit*] by a car. **2 *knock (someone) over*** *or* ***knock over (someone)*** *informal* : to greatly surprise or shock (someone) ▪ He was *knocked over* [=*overwhelmed*] by the news. ▪ When I found out I had won, ***you could have knocked me over with a feather***. [=I was extremely surprised or astonished] **3 *knock (something) over*** *or* ***knock over (something)*** *US, informal* **a** : to steal money or things from (a bank or store) ▪ Three men *knocked over* [=*knocked off*] a bank. **b** : to steal (something) ▪ They *knocked over* a truckload of goods.

knock (someone) cold : to cause (someone) to become unconscious ▪ He *knocked* his opponent *cold* with one punch. ▪ She was *knocked cold* [=*knocked out*] by the collision.

knock (someone) dead *informal* : to make a very strong and good impression on (someone) ▪ Her performance really *knocked* the audience *dead*. [=the audience greatly enjoyed her performance] ▪ She told him to go out there on the stage and ***knock 'em dead***.

knock (someone) for a loop see ¹LOOP

knock (someone) for six see SIX

knock someone's head/block off *informal* : to hit someone very hard ▪ I'm so angry I'd like to *knock his block off*.

knock (someone) sideways *Brit* : to upset, confuse, or shock (someone) very much ▪ The news about his mother's accident really *knocked him sideways*.

knock some sense into see ¹SENSE

knock (something) on the head *Brit, informal* : to cause the end or failure of (something) ▪ The closing of the airport *knocked* our holiday plans *on the head*.

K

knock spots off see [1]SPOT
knock the (living) daylights out of see DAYLIGHT
knock the stuffing out of see STUFFING
knock together [*phrasal verb*] ***knock (something) together*** *or* ***knock together (something)*** : to make or build (something) in a quick or careless way ▪ a rough table that was *knocked together* from old pieces of wood
knock up [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***knock (someone) up*** *or* ***knock up (someone)*** *informal* **a** *chiefly US, impolite* : to make (someone) pregnant ▪ She got *knocked up*. [=she got pregnant] **b** *Brit* : to wake (someone) by knocking on a door ▪ *knocked* him *up* at 6 a.m. **2** ***knock (something) up*** *or* ***knock up (something)*** *Brit* : to make or produce (something) quickly ▪ *knock up* a quick meal
knock your socks off see [1]SOCK

[2]knock *noun, pl* **knocks**
1 [*count*] **a** : a hard, sharp hit ▪ He gave him a *knock* on the head. **b** : the sound made by a hard hit ▪ There was a loud *knock* at the door.
2 [*count*] *informal* : an experience that makes you less confident or successful for a period of time : a difficult or painful experience ▪ She took some *knocks* early in her career. ▪ Most performers have their share of *knocks* [=*setbacks*] on their way to stardom. — see also HARD KNOCKS (below)
3 [*count*] *informal* : a critical or negative comment ▪ He likes praise but can't stand the *knocks*. — often used in U.S. English in the phrase ***the knock against*** ▪ *The knock against* her is that she can't win the important matches. [=people say that she cannot win the important matches] ▪ One of *the knocks against* television is that there are too many commercials.
4 : a loud noise produced by an engine when it is not working properly [*count*] We heard a *knock* in the engine. [*noncount*] a type of fuel that reduces engine *knock*
hard knocks : difficult or painful experiences that people have in their lives or careers ▪ He has taken plenty of *hard knocks* in his life. ▪ The ***school of hard knocks*** [=the difficult experiences in his life] taught him how to be tough.

knock•about /ˈnɑːkəˌbaʊt/ *adj, always used before a noun* : noisy or rough often in a silly or amusing way ▪ *knockabout* humor ▪ He lived a *knockabout* life in the city.

knock•back /ˈnɑːkˌbæk/ *noun, pl* **-backs** [*count*] *Brit, informal* : something (such as a criticism or refusal) that makes you less confident or successful ▪ Everyone experiences a few *knockbacks* in their lives.

knock•down /ˈnɑːkˌdaʊn/ *adj, always used before a noun, chiefly Brit, informal, of a price* : greatly reduced from the original price : extremely low ▪ Now's your chance to buy these items at *knockdown* prices!

knock–down, drag–out *or* **knock–down–drag–out** *adj, always used before a noun, US, informal* : very angry or violent ▪ We had a *knock-down-drag-out* argument.

knock•er /ˈnɑːkɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers**
1 [*count*] : a small metal device on a door that you move in order to make a knocking sound
2 ***knockers*** [*plural*] *informal + sometimes offensive* : a woman's breasts

knock–kneed /ˈnɑːkˈniːd/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : having legs that curve inward at the knees ▪ She is tall and *knock-kneed*.

knock•off /ˈnɑːkˌɑːf/ *noun, pl* **-offs** [*count*] : a cheap or inferior copy of something ▪ That purse is a *knockoff*. — see also *knock off* at [1]KNOCK

knock–on effect *noun, pl* ~ **-fects** [*count*] *Brit* : something (such as a process, action, or event) that causes other things to happen : RIPPLE EFFECT ▪ The drought is likely to have a *knock-on effect* throughout the whole economy.

[1]knock•out /ˈnɑːkˌaʊt/ *noun, pl* **-outs** [*count*]
1 : an occurrence in which a boxing match ends when a fighter has been knocked down by a punch and is unable to start fighting again before 10 seconds have passed ▪ He won the match by a *knockout*. ▪ He scored a *knockout* in the fourth round. — see also TECHNICAL KNOCKOUT
2 *informal* : a very attractive or appealing person or thing ▪ She's a real *knockout* in that dress. — see also *knock out* at [1]KNOCK

[2]knockout *adj, always used before a noun*
1 : causing someone to become unconscious ▪ a *knockout* punch/blow
2 *informal* : extremely attractive or appealing ▪ a *knockout* actress/movie
3 *Brit, of a contest or competition* : designed so that winning teams or players continue to play and losing teams or players do not ▪ The Wimbledon tennis tournament is a *knockout* competition.

knock–up *noun, pl* **-ups** [*count*] *Brit* : a time before a tennis game when players hit the ball to each other in order to practice

knoll /ˈnoʊl/ *noun, pl* **knolls** [*count*] : a small hill ▪ a grassy *knoll*

[1]knot /ˈnɑːt/ *noun, pl* **knots** [*count*]
1 a : a part that forms when you tie a piece of rope, string, fabric, etc., to itself or to something else ▪ She tied the rope in a *knot*. ▪ He made/tied a *knot* in the rope. ▪ untie a *knot* ▪ loosen/tighten a *knot* — see also GRANNY KNOT, SLIPKNOT, SQUARE KNOT **b** : a part where something has become twisted or wrapped around itself ▪ The electrical cord was tangled in *knots*. ▪ She tried to untangle the *knots* [=*tangles*] in the child's hair. — often used figuratively ▪ The project has been tied up in political and legal *knots* for years. [=nothing has happened with the project for years because of political and legal problems] — see also GORDIAN KNOT
2 : a painful or uncomfortable feeling of tightness in part of your body ▪ a *knot* in a muscle ▪ massaging the *knots* out of my back ▪ I was so nervous that my stomach was ***in knots***. [=I had an unpleasant and tight feeling in my stomach]
3 : a dark round mark on a piece of wood that shows where a branch grew ▪ a board full of *knots*
4 : a way of arranging long hair by twisting it into a round shape at the sides or back of the head ▪ She pulled her hair into a *knot* [=*bun*] at the back of her neck.
5 : a group of people who are standing or sitting close together ▪ A *knot* [=*cluster*] of people blocked the door.
6 : a unit of speed equal to one nautical mile per hour ▪ Wind is from the north at 12 *knots*. ▪ sailing at six *knots*
at a rate of knots see [1]RATE
tie the knot *informal* : to get married ▪ When are you two going to *tie the knot*?
tie yourself (up) in knots **1** : to cause problems for yourself because you are being too careful, trying too hard, etc. ▪ The mayor *tied himself in knots* answering a touchy political question. [=he answered it in a confused or unclear way] **2** : to become very upset or worried ▪ I don't know why they're *tying themselves in knots* over such a trivial problem.

[2]knot *verb* **knots**; **knot•ted**; **knot•ting**
1 [+ *obj*] : to tie a section of rope, string, fabric, etc., to itself or to something else so that a knot forms : to make a knot in (something) ▪ He *knotted* his tie so that both ends would be the same length. ▪ *knot* a string/rope; *also* : to connect (two or more parts or things) with a knot ▪ *Knot* the threads together. ▪ She *knotted* a sweater around her shoulders. [=tied the sleeves of the sweater together around her shoulders]
2 [*no obj*] : to develop a painful or uncomfortable feeling of tightness — often + *up* ▪ My stomach *knotted* [=*tensed*] *up* as I waited for the interview.
3 [+ *obj*] *US, informal* : to make (the score of a game or contest) equal ▪ He scored a goal that *knotted* [=*tied*] the score at 3 all.

knot•ted /ˈnɑːtəd/ *adj*
1 : having a knot or knots ▪ a *knotted* rope/cord/string
2 : KNOTTY 1 ▪ *knotted* pine
get knotted *Brit slang* — used in speech as a rude way to tell someone to go away or to show that you are annoyed with someone

knot•ty /ˈnɑːti/ *adj* **knot•ti•er**; **-est**
1 *of wood* : having many dark round marks showing where branches grew : having many knots ▪ *knotty* wood ▪ *knotty* paneling ▪ *knotty* pine
2 : difficult or complicated ▪ a *knotty* problem/situation

[1]know /ˈnoʊ/ *verb, not used in progressive tenses* **knows**; **knew** /ˈnuː, *Brit* ˈnjuː/; **known** /ˈnoʊn/; **know•ing**
1 a : to have (information of some kind) in your mind [+ *obj*] He *knows* a lot about the history of the town. ▪ Do you *know* the answer? ▪ I don't *know* her name. ▪ Do you *know* what time it is? ▪ I don't *know* the words to that song. ▪ They *knew* a good deal about the problem. ▪ She *knows* the rules of the game. ▪ He *knows* everything about horses. = He ***knows all/everything there is to know*** about horses. — often + *how, why, where*, etc. ▪ Do you *know why* she left this suitcase here? ▪ Do you *know where* she went? ▪ No one *knows* (for sure) *how* long it will take the fix the problem. ▪ He ***knows perfectly/full well*** *how* to do it. [*no obj*] If you want the answer, ask someone who *knows*. ▪ "What is she doing?" "Be-

lieve me, ***you don't want to know.***" [=you would be shocked or upset to learn what she is doing] — often + *about* ▪ He *knows* (all) *about* horses. **b :** to understand (something) : to have a clear and complete idea of (something) [+ *obj*] I don't *know* much about art, but I *know* what I like. — usually + *how, why, where*, etc. ▪ Scientists don't yet *know why* this happens. ▪ I don't *know what* to do. ▪ I don't *know what* you want me to do. ▪ We had almost no money in those days. I don't *know how* we managed. ▪ I don't *know how* you could be so careless. ▪ You ***know perfectly/full well*** *what* I am trying to say. [*no obj*] "How could she do that?" "***How should/would I know?!***" [=I don't know, and you should not expect me to know] **c** [+ *obj*] : to have learned (something, as a skill or a language) ▪ She *knows* karate/CPR. ▪ He *knows* Spanish. — often + *how* ▪ Do you *know how* to type? ▪ I would go swimming with you, but I don't *know how* (to swim). [=I never learned to swim]

2 : to be aware of (something) : to realize (something) [+ *obj*] She *knows* that many people will not believe her. ▪ I *know* (that) this isn't easy for you, but you have to keep trying. ▪ As soon as I turned on the light I *knew* that something was missing. ▪ There was no way for me to *know* that he was your brother. = ***How was I to know*** that he was your brother? ▪ It's wrong and you ***know it.*** [=you are aware that it is wrong] ▪ "I'm sorry I threw out those bags." "It's okay: you ***couldn't have known*** that I needed them." = "It's okay: you ***had no way of knowing*** that I needed them." = (*Brit*) "It's okay: you ***weren't to know*** that I needed them." ▪ You ***ought to know by now*** that she is always late. ▪ It's impossible to *know* what will happen next. = There's ***no way of knowing*** what will happen next. = There's ***no knowing*** what will happen next. ▪ If you've never been to Venice, ***you don't know what you're missing.*** [=you would enjoy going to Venice very much] ▪ ***You know as well as I do*** that they expect us at 8:00. ▪ ***You don't know*** how happy I am to see you. [=I am extremely happy to see you] ▪ ***You'll never know*** what this means to me. = ***You can't know*** how much this means to me. [=this means a great deal to me] [*no obj*] ***As far as I know,*** they plan to arrive on Monday. [=I believe that they plan to arrive on Monday, but I am not sure] ▪ We're planning a party for George. ***As you know,*** he'll be leaving the company next month. — often + *about* or *of* ▪ I *knew about* the problem. [=I was aware of the problem] ▪ Does she *know about* the meeting? ▪ I don't *know of* any job openings right now. [=I am not aware of any job openings right now] ▪ I *know of* her as a poet but not as a novelist. [=I am familiar with her poetry but not with her novels] ▪ Do you *know of* a good lawyer? [=can you recommend a good lawyer?] ▪ "Does he have relatives nearby?" "***Not that I know of.***" [=I don't think he has any relatives nearby]

3 : to be certain of (something) [+ *obj*] Everyone else believes him, but I just *know* (that) he's lying. ▪ I don't *know* if I can trust her. [=I am not sure that I can trust her] ▪ It's hard to *know* exactly where the candidate stands on this issue. ▪ I *knew* he'd forget. ▪ I need to *know* if they are coming. ▪ "She says she's not coming." "***I knew it!***" [=I was sure that she wouldn't come] ▪ ***I knew it all along.*** [=I was always sure of it] [*no obj*] "They're coming." "Do you *know* [=are you certain], or are you just guessing?" = "Do you ***know for sure/certain,*** or are you just guessing?" ▪ He thinks he got the job but he doesn't *know for sure*.

4 [+ *obj*] **a :** to have met and talked to (someone) : to be acquainted or familiar with (a person) ▪ "Do you *know* Clara?" "Yes, we've met." ▪ "Do you *know* Clara?" "We've met but I wouldn't say that I really *know* her." [=I am not close to her; I don't know much about her] ▪ I've *known* him for years. He's one of my best friends. ▪ *Knowing* you, you'll be the first one there. [=because I know you so well, I expect you to be the first one there] ▪ She's the kindest person I *know*. ▪ ***To know him is to love him.*** [=the people who know him feel great affection for him] ▪ We just bought a house here last month, and we're still ***getting to know*** our neighbors. [=we're still meeting our neighbors; we're still becoming acquainted with our neighbors] **b :** to have experience with (something) : to be acquainted or familiar with (something) ▪ She *knows* the city very well. ▪ Do you *know* her painting/writing/work? ▪ Do you *know* any good restaurants in this area? ▪ We're still ***getting to know*** the neighborhood. ▪ The building ***as we know it*** [=as it exists now] is quite different from how it looked when it was first built. ▪ This is the end of the organization *as we know it*. [=the organization has changed and will never again be the same as it was] **c :** to have experienced (something) ▪ someone who *knows* grief well [=someone who has experienced a lot of grief] — usually used as *known* ▪ I've *known* failure and I've *known* success. [=I have failed and I have succeeded]

5 [+ *obj*] **a :** to recognize (someone or something) : to identify (someone or something) accurately ▪ "How will I *know* her?" "She'll be wearing a red sweater." ▪ I would *know* [=*recognize*] that voice anywhere. ▪ I *know* his face [=his face is familiar to me] but I don't remember his name. ▪ I feel like I *know* this house, but I've never been here before. ▪ I *know* many of the customers at the café by sight. [=I see them often enough that I recognize them] **b :** to recognize the difference between two things : to be able to distinguish (one thing) *from* another ▪ *know* right *from* wrong

6 [+ *obj*] **a :** to be sure that (someone or something) has a particular quality, character, etc., because of your experiences with that person or thing — usually followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ I've worked with him for many years, and I *know* him *to be* an honest man. ▪ I *know* the business *to be* legitimate. **b :** to think of (someone or something) as having a particular quality, character, etc. — + *as* ▪ His neighbors *knew* him *as* a quiet and friendly person, but the people he worked with saw a different side of him. — often used as *(be) known as* ▪ She *is known as* an expert in the field. [=people consider her an expert] **c** — used to indicate the name that people know or use for someone or something; + *as* ▪ Her neighbors *knew* her *as* Jill Brown, but her real name was Amy Smith. — often used as *(be) known as* ▪ Samuel L. Clemens *was* better/otherwise *known as* Mark Twain. [=most people called him Mark Twain] ▪ Beethoven's Third Symphony *is* widely *known as* the "Eroica." **d** — used to say that someone or something has a particular quality, feature, ability, etc., that people know about; + *for* ▪ Fans of the blues *know* the city *for* its live blues clubs. — usually used as *(be) known for* ▪ The restaurant *is known for* its desserts. [=the restaurant's desserts are popular, well-known, etc.] ▪ She *is known for* her ability to work quickly. = She *is known for* working quickly. ▪ He's *known for* being late. [=he is often late] **e** ✧ Someone who has been ***known to be*** or ***known to do*** something has been or done that thing in the past. ▪ We've *known* him *to work* all night to meet a deadline. = He's been *known to work* all night to meet a deadline. ▪ I've never *known* her *to be* wrong. [=I do not know of any time when she has been wrong] ▪ He's been *known to do* this kind of thing before.

before you know it : very quickly or soon ▪ We'll be there *before you know it*. ▪ The game was over *before I knew it*.

better the devil you know than the devil you don't see DEVIL

don't I know it *informal* — used to say that you agree with what has just been said ▪ "It's freezing in here!" "*Don't I know it.*" [=I agree]

for all I know *informal* — used to say that you have little or no knowledge of something ▪ *For all I know*, he left last night. [=I don't know when he left; it's possible that he left last night] ▪ She may have already accepted another job, *for all we know*. [=we don't know what she has done; it's possible that she has already accepted another job]

God knows *or* ***goodness knows*** *or* ***heaven knows*** *or* ***Lord knows*** *informal* **1** — used to stress that something is not known ▪ How long will the meeting last? *Heaven knows.* ▪ *God* (only) *knows* if the reports are true. **2** — used to make a statement more forceful ▪ He finally got a raise. *Goodness knows* he deserved one. [=he certainly deserved one] ▪ She didn't win, but *Lord knows* she tried.

have known better days see ¹BETTER

I don't know **1** — used to say that you do not have the information someone is asking for ▪ "What time does the library close?" "*I don't know.*" **2** *informal* — used to express disagreement, doubt, or uncertainty ▪ "I don't like that guy." "Oh, *I don't know*, he's not really so bad." ▪ "Which one is your favorite?" "Um, *I don't know*, maybe the red one." ▪ She thinks we should go now, but *I don't know*. [=I'm not sure] Maybe we should wait. **3** — used to say that you are uncertain *about* someone or something ▪ ***I don't know about you*** [=you may think or feel differently than I do about this], but I'm leaving. ▪ "She said she'd be here by 5:00." "***I don't know about that.***" [=I'm not sure that will happen] ▪ ***I don't know about him***—he's hard to figure out.

if you must know — used when you are answering a question that you do not want to answer because the information is personal, embarrassing, etc. ▪ "How much did you pay for your car?" "Well, *if you must know*, it cost about

K

$20,000." ▪ "Why did you leave that job?" "*If you must know*, I was fired."

I'll have you know see HAVE

I know (it) **1** — used to express agreement ▪ "Hurry up, we're going to be late." "*I know*, but I can't find my shoe." ▪ "This place is such a mess." "*I know it.*" [=I agree] ▪ "I can't believe he lied." "*I know, I know.*" ▪ "The whole situation is just so stupid." "*I know.*" **2** — used to introduce a suggestion ▪ "What should we do tonight?" "*I know* [=I have an idea]—how about a movie?"

I wouldn't know — used to say that you have not experienced something ▪ "That restaurant has the best desserts!" "*I wouldn't know*. I've never been there."

know best *or* ***know what's best*** : to know or understand better than someone else what should be done ▪ I would take the highway myself, but you live here so you *know best*. ▪ I'll do whatever you say. You *know what's best*.

know better **1** : to be smart or sensible enough not to do something ▪ You walked home alone? Don't you *know better* (than that)? ▪ She'll ***know better than to*** trust them again. [=she will not trust them again] ▪ There's no excuse for his behavior. He's ***old enough to know better***. ▪ Don't blame him. He's just a child and he ***doesn't know (any) better***. [=he is too young, inexperienced, etc., to be expected to behave properly] **2** : to know or understand the truth about something ▪ She tried to tell me that it wasn't her fault, but I *know better*. [=I know that it really was her fault] **3** : to know or understand more than other people ▪ You can't tell him what to do. He always thinks that he *knows better*.

know different/otherwise : to know that something that people think or say is true is not really true ▪ She says she has no money but I *know otherwise*. [=I know that she does have money]

know from [*phrasal verb*] ***know from (someone or something)*** *US, informal* : to know anything about or care at all about (someone or something) — used in negative statements ▪ kids who don't *know from* sports

know no boundaries see BOUNDARY

know no bounds see [6]BOUND

know (something) backward and forward *or Brit* ***know (something) backwards*** *or* ***know (something) inside out*** *or US* ***know (something) inside and out*** *or* ***know (something) like the back of your hand*** : to know something completely ▪ He *knew the process backward and forward*. ▪ She *knows the business inside and out*. ▪ I *know this town like the back of my hand*.

know (something or someone) for what it/he/she is : to understand what something or someone truly is ▪ Now I *know them for what they are*—liars. ▪ before scientists *knew the disease for what it is*—a virus ▪ the friends who *know me for what I am* [=who truly know and understand me]

know (something) when you see it/one : to be able to recognize or identify something immediately ▪ She *knows a bargain when she sees it*. ▪ I *know a liar when I see one*. ▪ I'm not sure what I want but I'll *know it when I see it*.

know the drill see [1]DRILL

know the score see [1]SCORE

know what hit you — used in negative statements to say that something you did not expect surprised you very much ▪ I did*n't know what hit me*—suddenly I just felt so dizzy. ▪ The company came out with an entirely new line of products last year, and their competitors *never knew what hit them*. [=their competitors were not prepared and were completely surprised]

know what it is *or* ***to know what it's like*** : to have experience with a situation, activity, or condition ▪ He *knows what it is to be* poor. [=he has been poor] ▪ They *know what it's like to* have no privacy.

know what you are talking about ✧ If *you know what you are talking about*, you deserve to be listened to because you have actual knowledge or experience with something and what you are saying is correct. ▪ Take her advice. She *knows what she's talking about*. ▪ "He said the movie is boring." "Don't listen to him. He ***doesn't know what he's talking about***." [=he is wrong]

know which side your bread is buttered on see [1]BREAD

know your own heart/mind : to be sure of what you want, like, think, etc. ▪ She's a woman who *knows her own mind*.

know yourself : to understand yourself fully : to understand your own emotions, desires, abilities, etc. ▪ I was so young then. I really didn't *know myself*.

know your stuff see [1]STUFF

know your way around ✧ If you *know your way around* a place or thing, you are very familiar with it or are good at using or operating it. ▪ He *knows his way around* Boston. ▪ She really *knows her way around* a sailboat. [=she knows how to sail; she is a very good sailor] ▪ They *know their way around* computers.

let (someone) know : to tell something to someone ▪ *Let me know* [=tell me] if you're going to the party. ▪ Please *let me know* if there's anything I can do to help. [=I would like to help; please tell me if you need help] ▪ He's not sure what time he'll arrive—he is going to *let us know*. ▪ She *let the staff know* her decision. [=she told the staff her decision]

let (something) be known *or* ***make (something) known*** *formal* : to tell people something ▪ He *let it be known* [=he announced] that he intends to run for mayor. ▪ She *made her decision known* to the staff. [=she told the staff her decision]

make yourself known *formal* : to introduce yourself : to cause people to know who you are ▪ The candidate *made herself known* to voters through an aggressive ad campaign. ▪ the movie in which the actor first *made himself known* to the world

might/should have known — used to say that you are not surprised to learn of something ▪ I *should have known* it would be too expensive. ▪ "She says she's going to be late." "I *might have known*."

not know someone from Adam *informal* : to have never met with someone : to not know someone at all ▪ Why should she trust me? She *doesn't know me from Adam*.

not know the first thing about : to have little or no knowledge about (something or someone) ▪ I *don't know the first thing about* cooking/sports/children.

not know the meaning of (the word) see MEANING

not know your ass from your elbow (*chiefly US*) *or Brit* ***not know your arse from your elbow*** *informal + impolite* : to know nothing : to be stupid ▪ Don't take his word for it—he *doesn't know his ass from his elbow*.

what do you know *informal* **1** — used to express surprise ▪ She's an astronaut? Well, *what do you know*! ▪ "He's going to law school in the fall." "Well ***what do you know about that***?" [=I am surprised that he is going to law school] **2** — used to say that someone is wrong about something ▪ "She thinks I should take the job." "*What does she know*? You should do what you want."

wouldn't you know (it)? *informal* — used to say that something annoying that has happened is the kind of thing that often happens ▪ I was running late and—*wouldn't you know*?—I rushed off without my purse. ▪ "He's late again." "*Wouldn't you know it*?!"

you know *informal* **1** — used when you are trying to help someone remember something ▪ They live on the other side of town. *You know*—near the golf course. ▪ He was in our history class—*you know* [=*you remember*]—the tall blond guy in the front row. **2** — used for emphasis ▪ *You know*, we really have to go. ▪ It's cold outside, *you know*. ▪ *You know*, you really should write a novel. **3** — used when you are not sure of what to say or how to say it ▪ Would you like to, *you know*, go out sometime? ▪ We're planning to go shopping and, *you know*, just hang out.

you know something/what? *informal* **1** — used to emphasize the statement that comes after it ▪ *You know something*? I never trusted her. ▪ She lied to me again, but *you know what*? I really just don't care any more. **2** — used to get someone's attention ▪ Hey, *you know what*? I'm hungry.

you know what I mean *informal* — used to suggest that the hearer agrees with and understands what has been said or to ask if he or she does or not ▪ I grew up there, *you know what I mean*, so I know what it's like. ▪ He's kind of strange. Do *you know what I mean*? ▪ He's kind of strange, ***if you know what I mean***. — sometimes used in the shortened form *know what I mean* ▪ He's kind of strange—*know what I mean*?

you know what they say *informal* — used to introduce a common saying or a statement that expresses a common belief ▪ Keep trying, and you'll figure it out. *You know what they say*: if at first you don't succeed, try, try again.

you never know — used to say that it is impossible to be sure about what will happen ▪ *You never know*—you might win the lottery. ▪ *You never know* who will show up. ▪ *You never know* with her parties: anyone could show up.

[2]know *noun*

in the know : having knowledge about something : having information that most people do not have ▪ people who are

in the know ▪ For those of you not *in the know*, Jane is the person who founded this organization.

know•able /ˈnowəbəl/ *adj* : able to be known ▪ information that is not easily *knowable*

know–all /ˈnoʊˌɑːl/ *noun, pl* **-alls** [*count*] *Brit, informal* : KNOW-IT-ALL

know–how /ˈnoʊˌhaʊ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : knowledge of how to do something well : EXPERTISE ▪ technical *know-how* ▪ Does he have the *know-how* to help us do this?

know•ing /ˈnowɪŋ/ *adj, always used before a noun* [*more ~; most ~*] : showing that you have special knowledge ▪ a *knowing* look/glance/smile ▪ She looked at us in a *knowing* way.

know•ing•ly /ˈnowɪŋli/ *adv* [*more ~; most ~*]
1 : in a way that shows that you have special knowledge : in a knowing way ▪ She looked at us *knowingly*. ▪ someone who can speak *knowingly* about investing
2 : with knowledge of what is being done ▪ Did he *knowingly* [=*deliberately, purposely*] withhold information?

know–it–all /ˈnowətˌɑːl/ *noun, pl* **-alls** [*count*] *informal + disapproving* : a person who talks and behaves like someone who knows everything ▪ My neighbor is a real *know-it-all*, always telling me what to do. — often used before another noun ▪ my *know-it-all* neighbor — called also (*Brit*) *know-all*

knowl•edge /ˈnɑːlɪʤ/ *noun*
1 : information, understanding, or skill that you get from experience or education [*noncount*] She has little/no/some *knowledge* of fashion/history/cooking. ▪ He has devoted himself to the pursuit of *knowledge*. ▪ a thirst/quest for *knowledge* [*singular*] a *knowledge* of carpentry ▪ She gained/acquired a thorough *knowledge* of local customs. ▪ I have a reading *knowledge* of French [=I can read French], but I can't speak it fluently.
2 [*noncount*] : awareness of something : the state of being aware of something ▪ He claimed to have no *knowledge* of the plan. = He denied all/any *knowledge* of the plan. ▪ Did you have any *knowledge* of her intentions? ▪ The decision was made ***without my knowledge***. [=I did not know about the decision]
common knowledge : something that many or most people know ▪ It's *common knowledge* that she plans to run for mayor.
public knowledge : something that people know because it has been reported in the news ▪ His legal problems are a matter of *public knowledge*.
safe/secure in the knowledge : feeling safe or secure because you know something specified ▪ They went on vacation, *safe in the knowledge* that the farm would be well cared for while they were away.
to someone's knowledge : according to what someone knows — usually used in negative statements ▪ "Did anyone arrive late?" "*Not to my knowledge*." ▪ No one arrived late *to my knowledge*. [=I am not aware that anyone arrived late, but it is possible that someone arrived late and I don't know about it]
to the best of my knowledge — used to say that you think a statement is true but that there may be something you do not know which makes it untrue ▪ *To the best of my knowledge* [=*as far as I know*], everyone arrived on time. ▪ I answered their questions *to the best of my knowledge*. [=I gave the best answers I could based on what I knew, but I might have answered differently if I had known something else]

knowl•edge•able /ˈnɑːlɪʤəbəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : having information, understanding, or skill that comes from experience or education : having knowledge ▪ a *knowledgeable* person ▪ a *knowledgeable* observer ▪ He is very *knowledgeable* about chess. [=he knows a lot about chess]
– **knowl•edge•ably** /ˈnɑːlɪʤəbli/ *adv* ▪ She spoke *knowledgeably* on several topics.

[1]known *past participle of* [1]KNOW

[2]known /ˈnoʊn/ *adj*
1 *always used before a noun* **a** : generally accepted as something specified ▪ He's a *known* expert. ▪ That's a *known* fact! ▪ a *known* criminal **b** : included in the knowledge that all people considered as one group have ▪ There is no *known* cure for the disease. [=there is no cure that anyone knows about, although a cure may exist that has not yet been discovered] ▪ the earliest *known* use of a word [=the earliest use that anyone knows about]
2 : familiar to people — used with *little, widely*, etc. ▪ a widely *known* story [=a story that many people know] ▪ a little-*known* writer [=a writer that few people know about] — see also WELL-KNOWN

known quantity see QUANTITY

know–noth•ing /ˈnoʊˌnʌθɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-ings** [*count*] : a person who lacks intelligence or knowledge : a stupid or ignorant person ▪ He regards his political rivals as a bunch of *know-nothings*. — often used before another noun ▪ a bunch of *know-nothing* politicians

[1]knuck•le /ˈnʌkəl/ *noun, pl* **knuck•les** [*count*]
1 : any one of the thick, bony parts (called joints) in your fingers ▪ She rapped her *knuckles* on the table. — see picture at HAND
2 : a piece of meat that includes a joint from the leg of an animal ▪ a pork *knuckle*
a rap on/over/across the knuckles see [1]RAP
rap (someone) on/over/across the knuckles see [2]RAP

[2]knuckle *verb* **knuck•les; knuck•led; knuck•ling**
knuckle down [*phrasal verb*] *informal* : to begin to work hard ▪ It's time to *knuckle down* and get to work. — often + *to* ▪ She *knuckled down to* the task.
knuckle under [*phrasal verb*] *informal* : to stop trying to fight or resist something : to agree to do or accept something that you have been resisting or opposing ▪ Despite the pressure, he refused to *knuckle under*. [=*give in*] — often + *to* ▪ He refused to *knuckle under to* anyone. ▪ He finally *knuckled under to* the pressure.

knuck•le•ball /ˈnʌkəlˌbɑːl/ *noun, pl* **-balls** [*count*] *baseball* : a pitch that is thrown with very little spin by holding the ball with the knuckles or fingertips — called also *knuckler*

knuck•le•head /ˈnʌkəlˌhɛd/ *noun, pl* **-heads** [*count*] *US, informal* : a stupid person : DUMMY ▪ Don't be such a *knucklehead*.

knuck•ler /ˈnʌkələ/ *noun, pl* **-lers** [*count*] *baseball* : KNUCKLEBALL

[1]KO /ˌkeɪˈoʊ/ *noun, pl* **KOs** [*count*] *boxing* : [1]KNOCKOUT ▪ He scored a *KO* in the second round.

[2]KO *verb* **KO's; KO'd** /ˌkeɪˈoʊd/; **KO'•ing** /ˌkeɪˈowɪŋ/ [+ *obj*] *boxing* : to knock (an opponent) out ▪ He was *KO'd* in the second round.

ko•ala /kəˈwɑːlə/ *noun, pl* **-al•as** [*count*] : an Australian animal that has thick gray fur, large hairy ears, sharp claws for climbing, and no tail — called also *koala bear*


koala

kohl /ˈkoʊl/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a type of makeup that is used to put a black or dark gray line or mark around the eyes ▪ eyes rimmed with *kohl*

kohl•ra•bi /koʊlˈrɑːbi/ *noun* [*count, noncount*] : a type of cabbage that has a large, round stem and that is eaten as a vegetable

kook /ˈkuːk/ *noun, pl* **kooks** [*count*] *informal* : a person whose ideas or actions are very strange or foolish ▪ a bunch of *kooks* dressed up in weird costumes ▪ a lovable *kook*
– **kooky** /ˈkuːki/ *adj* **kook•i•er; -est** ▪ another one of his *kooky* ideas ▪ a *kooky* outfit/person

kook•a•bur•ra /ˈkʊkəˌbərə/ *noun, pl* **-ras** [*count*] : a large Australian bird whose call is like loud laughter

Ko•ran *also* **Qur•an** *or* **Qur•'an** /kəˈræn, kəˈrɑːn/ *noun* [*singular*] : the book of sacred writings used in the Muslim religion
– **Ko•ran•ic** *also* **Qu•ran•ic** *or* **Qur•'an•ic** /kəˈrænɪk/ *adj*

Ko•re•an /kəˈriːjən/ *noun, pl* **-ans**
1 [*count*] : a person born, raised, or living in Korea : a person whose family is from Korea
2 [*noncount*] : the language of the Korean people
– **Korean** *adj* ▪ *Korean* culture/art/language ▪ the *Korean* people

ko•sher /ˈkoʊʃə/ *adj*
1 a : accepted by Jewish law as fit for eating or drinking ▪ *kosher* food ▪ *kosher* salt/pickles/meat/wine ▪ a family that ***keeps kosher*** [=a family that obeys Jewish laws about eating and drinking] **b** : selling or serving kosher food ▪ a *kosher* butcher ▪ a *kosher* restaurant
2 [*more ~; most ~*] *informal* : proper or acceptable : RIGHT ▪ Something about this deal is just not *kosher*.

kow•tow /ˈkaʊˌtaʊ/ *verb* **-tows; -towed; -tow•ing** [*no obj*] *informal + disapproving* : to agree too easily or eagerly to do what someone else wants you to do : to obey someone with power in a way that seems weak — usually + *to* ▪ She refused to *kowtow to* their demands.

kph *abbr* kilometers per hour

Kraut /ˈkraʊt/ *noun, pl* **Krauts** [*count*] *informal + offensive* : a German person

Krem•lin /ˈkrɛmlən/ *noun*
the Kremlin : the government of Russia and the former Soviet Union ▪ an announcement from *the Kremlin*; *also* : the buildings of the Russian government in Moscow ▪ We visited *the Kremlin* when we traveled to Russia.

krill /ˈkrɪl/ *noun* [*plural*] : very small creatures in the ocean that are the main food of some whales

kro•na /ˈkroʊnə/ *noun, pl* **kro•nor** /ˈkroʊˌnoɚ/ [*count*] : a basic unit of money that is used in Sweden and Iceland; *also* : a coin representing one krona

kro•ne /ˈkroʊnə/ *noun, pl* **kro•ner** /ˈkroʊnɚ/ [*count*] : a basic unit of money that is used in Denmark and Norway; *also* : a coin representing one krone

kryp•ton /ˈkrɪpˌtɑːn/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a chemical element that is a colorless gas and that is used especially in electric lights

KS *abbr* Kansas

ku•dos /ˈkuːˌdoʊz, *Brit* ˈkjuːˌdɒs/ *noun* [*noncount*] *informal* : praise or respect that you get because of something you have done or achieved ▪ *Kudos* to everyone who helped. ▪ The company has earned *kudos* for responding so quickly to customers' concerns.

Ku Klux Klan /ˈkuːˈklʌksˈklæn/ *noun*
the Ku Klux Klan : a secret organization in the U.S. that is made up of white people who are opposed to people of other races ▪ a member of *the Ku Klux Klan* — abbr. *KKK*

kum•quat /ˈkʌmˌkwɑːt/ *noun, pl* **-quats** [*count*] : a fruit that looks like a small orange

kung fu /ˌkʌŋˈfuː/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a form of fighting without weapons that was developed in China : a Chinese martial art — often used before another noun ▪ *kung fu* chops/kicks ▪ a *kung fu* expert/master

Kurd /ˈkuɚd, ˈkɚd/ *noun, pl* **Kurds** [*count*] : a member of a group of people who live in a region that includes parts of Turkey, Iran, and Iraq
– **Kurd•ish** /ˈkuɚdɪʃ, ˈkɚdɪʃ/ *adj* ▪ *Kurdish* people

kvetch /ˈkvɛʧ/ *verb* **kvetch•es**; **kvetched**; **kvetch•ing** *chiefly US, informal* : to complain often or constantly [*no obj*] They're always *kvetching* about something. [+ *obj*] They're always *kvetching* (to us) that nothing is any good.
– **kvetch•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

kW *abbr* kilowatt

Kwan•zaa *also* **Kwan•za** /ˈkwɑːnzə/ *noun, pl* **-zaas** *also* **-zas** [*count, noncount*] : an African-American cultural festival held from December 26 to January 1

kWh *abbr* kilowatt-hour

KY *abbr* Kentucky

L

L

[1]l *or* **L** /ˈɛl/ *noun, pl* **l's** *or* **ls** *or* **L's** *or* **Ls** /ˈɛlz/
1 : the twelfth letter of the English alphabet [*count*] a word that starts with an *l* [*noncount*] a word that starts with *l*
2 [*count*] : the Roman numeral that means 50 ▪ LV [=55]

[2]l *or* **L** *abbr* **1** large — usually used for a clothing size ▪ The shirt comes in S, M, *L*, and XL. **2** left **3** length ▪ The area of a rectangle is *L* x W. **4** line — used to refer to a line of poetry or of a play ▪ act one, scene two, *l* 25 ✧ The abbreviation for "lines" is *ll.* ▪ *ll* 15–25 **5** liter ▪ a 2 *L* bottle

la /ˈlɑː/ *noun* [*noncount*] *music* : the sixth note of a musical scale ▪ do, re, mi, fa, sol, *la*, ti

LA *abbr* **1** Los Angeles **2** Louisiana

lab /ˈlæb/ *noun, pl* **labs** [*count*] *informal*
1 : LABORATORY ▪ working in the *lab* ▪ a chemistry/computer/crime *lab* — often used before another noun ▪ a *lab* animal [=an animal used for experiments in a laboratory] ▪ a *lab* coat [=a coat worn over the clothes for protection from spills and stains in a laboratory] ▪ a *lab* report [=a written report of the results of work in a lab]
2 : a class period for laboratory work ▪ I have (a) *lab* today.

[1]Lab /ˈlæb/ *noun, pl* **Labs** [*count*] *informal* : LABRADOR RETRIEVER ▪ a black *Lab*

[2]Lab *abbr, Brit* Labour (Party) ▪ Jane Smith MP (*Lab*)

[1]la•bel /ˈleɪbəl/ *noun, pl* **-bels** [*count*]
1 : a piece of paper, cloth, or similar material that is attached to something to identify or describe it ▪ The name is prominently displayed on the *label*. ▪ You should read the warning *label* before you take any medicine. ▪ (*US*) a ***mailing label*** [=a piece of paper with a mailing address already printed on it]
2 : a word or phrase that describes or identifies something or someone ▪ The word was given the *label* "obsolete." ▪ Some people describe him as "selfish," but he doesn't deserve that *label*. ▪ Once you give people *labels*, it's hard to see them as individuals.
3 : a company that produces musical recordings ▪ a major/independent record *label* ▪ The band has made records for/on/with several different *labels* in their career.
4 : a name shown on clothes that indicates the store, company, or person who sold, produced, or designed the clothes ▪ a designer *label* ▪ She always wears designer *label* jeans.

[2]label *verb* **-bels**; *US* **-beled** *or* **-belled**; *US* **-bel•ing** *or* **-bel•ling** [+ *obj*]
1 : to put a word or name on something to describe or identify it : to attach a label to (something) ▪ Be sure to carefully *label* the switches so that you don't confuse them. ▪ He *labels* his photographs with the date and place they were taken. — often used as *(be) labeled* ▪ two switches, *labeled* "A" and "B"
2 : to name or describe (someone or something) in a specified way : to give a label to (someone or something) ▪ Many people have unfairly *labeled* him (as) "selfish." — often used as *(be) labeled* ▪ He *has been labeled* (as) a nuisance because of his past behavior. ▪ words that *are labeled* "obsolete"

la•bia /ˈleɪbijə/ *noun* [*plural*] *technical* : the folds of skin at the outer part of a woman's sexual organs

la•bi•al /ˈleɪbijəl/ *adj, linguistics, of a sound* : produced by using one or both lips ▪ the *labial* sounds /f/ and /p/
– **labial** *noun, pl* **-als** [*count*] ▪ /f/ and /p/ are *labials*.

[1]la•bor *(US) or Brit* **la•bour** /ˈleɪbɚ/ *noun, pl* **-bors**
1 a : physical or mental effort : WORK [*noncount*] A day's *labor* should get the job done. ▪ Getting the job done will require many hours of difficult *labor*. ▪ menial/manual *labor* [*count*] He rested from his *labors*. ✧ A ***labor of love*** is a task that you do for enjoyment rather than pay. ▪ Restoring the old car was a *labor of love* for him. ✧ When you ***enjoy the fruits of your labor/labors***, you enjoy the things that you have gained by working. ▪ She worked hard for many years, but now she has retired and is able to *enjoy the fruits of her labor/labors*. **b** [*noncount*] : work for which someone is paid ▪ The cost of repairing the car includes parts and *labor*.
2 [*noncount*] **a** : workers considered as a group ▪ an area in which there is a shortage of cheap *labor* — often used before another noun ▪ a *labor* dispute ▪ The company sought to cut *labor* costs by increasing its efficiency. ▪ The company has a history of poor ***labor relations*** [=the workers and the managers of the company have had many disputes] ▪ the ***labor force*** [=the total number of people available for working] **b** : the organizations or officials that represent groups of workers ▪ The proposed new law is opposed by ***organized labor***.
3 : the process by which a woman gives birth to a baby [*noncount*] She went ***into labor*** this morning. ▪ She has been ***in labor*** for several hours. ▪ She began to have/experience ***labor pains*** this morning. [*singular*] She had a difficult *labor*.
4 *Labour* [*singular*] *Brit, politics* : the Labour Party of the United Kingdom or another part of the Commonwealth of Nations ▪ a proposal that is opposed by *Labour*

[2]labor *(US) or Brit* **la•bour** *verb* **-bors**; **-bored**; **-bor•ing** [*no obj*]
1 a : to do work ▪ Workers *labored* in the vineyard. ▪ He *labored* for several years as a miner. **b** : to work hard in order to achieve something ▪ She has *labored* in vain to convince

them to accept her proposal. ▪ Both sides continue to *labor* [=*struggle*] to find a solution. ▪ We should honor those who *labored* so long to make the truth known.

2 : to move or proceed with effort ▪ The truck *labored* up the hill. ▪ I have been *laboring* through this book for months.

3 : to repeat or stress something too much or too often ▪ She has a tendency to *labor* the obvious. ▪ I don't want to ***labor*** [=*belabor*] ***the point***, but I think I should mention again that we are running out of time.

labor under a delusion/misapprehension/misconception ✧ If you continue to believe something that is not true, you are *laboring under a delusion/misapprehension/misconception*. ▪ He still *labors under the delusion* that other people value his opinion.

lab•o•ra•to•ry /ˈlæbrəˌtori, *Brit* ləˈbɒrətri/ *noun, pl* **-ries** [*count*] **:** a room or building with special equipment for doing scientific experiments and tests ▪ experiments conducted in a modern *laboratory* ▪ a research *laboratory* — often used before another noun ▪ *laboratory* experiments/research/studies/tests — see also LANGUAGE LABORATORY

labor camp *noun, pl* ~ **camps** [*count*] **:** a place where prisoners are kept and forced to do hard physical labor

Labor Day *noun, pl* ~ **Days** [*count, noncount*] **:** the first Monday in September celebrated in the U.S. as a holiday in honor of working people

la•bored (*US*) *or Brit* **la•boured** /ˈleɪbərd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : produced or done with great effort ▪ The patient's symptoms included a rapid pulse and *labored* breathing.

2 : not having an easy or natural quality ▪ The movie's dialogue seems very *labored*. ▪ *labored* writing/speech

la•bor•er (*US*) *or Brit* **la•bour•er** /ˈleɪbərər/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] **:** a person who does hard physical work for money ▪ a farm *laborer* ▪ He has been working as a *laborer* on a construction project. — see also DAY LABORER

la•bor–in•ten•sive (*US*) *or Brit* **la•bour–in•ten•sive** /ˈleɪbərɪnˌtɛnsɪv/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] **:** requiring a lot of work or workers to produce ▪ the *labor-intensive* task of weaving cloth ▪ The manufacturing process is *labor-intensive* and expensive. — compare CAPITAL-INTENSIVE

la•bo•ri•ous /ləˈborijəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] **:** requiring a lot of time and effort ▪ Removing mildew stains is a *laborious* [=*difficult, painstaking*] task. ▪ a slow and *laborious* process/procedure

– la•bo•ri•ous•ly *adv* ▪ They spent many hours *laboriously* polishing the silverware. **– la•bo•ri•ous•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

la•bor–sav•ing (*US*) *or Brit* **la•bour–sav•ing** /ˈleɪbərˌseɪvɪŋ/ *adj* **:** designed to make a job or task easier to do ▪ a *labor-saving* device such as a dishwasher

labor union *noun, pl* ~ **unions** [*count*] *US* **:** an organization of workers formed to protect the rights and interests of its members : UNION

Lab•ra•dor retriever /ˈlæbrəˌdoɚ-/ *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] **:** a medium to large short-haired dog that is black, yellow, or brown in color — called also *Lab, Labrador*; see picture at DOG

lab•y•rinth /ˈlæbəˌrɪnθ/ *noun, pl* **-rinths** [*count*]

1 : a place that has many confusing paths or passages : MAZE ▪ an immense underground *labyrinth* ▪ a complex *labyrinth* of tunnels and chambers

2 : something that is extremely complicated or difficult to understand ▪ The cockpit was a *labyrinth* of instruments and controls. ▪ a *labyrinth* of social customs and rules

– lab•y•rin•thine /ˌlæbəˈrɪnθən, *Brit* ˌlæbəˈrɪnˌθaɪn/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ He found it difficult to follow the movie's *labyrinthine* [=*elaborate, intricate*] plot. ▪ the *labyrinthine* halls of the palace

[1]lace /ˈleɪs/ *noun, pl* **lac•es**

1 [*count*] **:** a cord or string used for tying or holding things together; *especially* : SHOELACE ▪ I need new *laces* for these shoes.

2 [*noncount*] **:** a very thin and light cloth made with patterns of holes ▪ She wore *lace* on her wedding gown. — often used before another noun ▪ *lace* curtains/tablecloth ▪ a white *lace* scarf

[2]lace *verb* **laced; lac•ing**

1 a [+ *obj*] **:** to pull a lace through the holes of (a shoe, boot, etc.) ▪ She was *lacing* (up) her shoes. **b** [*no obj*] **:** to be tied or fastened with a lace ▪ a dress that *laces* in the back **c** [+ *obj*] : INTERLACE, INTERTWINE ▪ She *laced* her fingers (together) behind her head.

2 [+ *obj*] **a :** to add a small amount of a powerful substance (such as alcohol, a drug, or a poison) to (something, such as a drink) — usually + *with* ▪ Someone had *laced* the punch *with* brandy. ▪ The pills had been *laced with* poison. **b :** to add something that gives flavor or interest to (something) — usually used as *(be) laced with* ▪ a sauce *laced with* garlic [=a sauce that has had garlic added to it] ▪ conversation *laced with* sarcasm ▪ Her reports *were* often *laced with* witty humor.

lac•er•ate /ˈlæsəˌreɪt/ *verb* **-ates; -at•ed; -at•ing** [+ *obj*] **:** to cut or tear (someone's flesh) deeply or roughly ▪ The broken glass *lacerated* his feet. ▪ The patient's hand was severely *lacerated*. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ Her cruel remarks *lacerated* his feelings.

– lacerating *adj* ▪ his *lacerating* [=extremely harsh] attacks on his critics

lac•er•a•tion /ˌlæsəˈreɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**

1 [*count*] **:** a deep cut or tear of the flesh ▪ She suffered *lacerations* on her legs.

2 [*noncount*] **:** the act of cutting or tearing flesh ▪ The broken glass caused severe *laceration* of his feet.

lace–up /ˈleɪsˌʌp/ *noun, pl* **-ups** [*count*] **:** a shoe or boot that is fastened with laces ▪ a pair of *lace-ups* — often used before another noun ▪ *lace-up* boots/shoes

lach•ry•mose /ˈlækrəˌmoʊs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal + literary*

1 : tending to cause tears : MOURNFUL ▪ a *lachrymose* drama

2 : tending to cry often : TEARFUL ▪ a drama with a *lachrymose* hero

[1]lack /ˈlæk/ *verb* **lacks; lacked; lack•ing :** to not have (something) [+ *obj*] His book *lacks* any coherent structure. ▪ They *lack* a good strategy for winning the election. ▪ This painting *lacks* any artistic value. **:** to not have enough of (something) ▪ She has never been accused of *lacking* confidence. ▪ *lack* money ▪ Many of these people *lack* the basic necessities of life. [*no obj*] (*chiefly US*) — + *for* ▪ The area does not *lack for* good restaurants. [=the area has many good restaurants] ▪ She does not *lack for* confidence.

[2]lack *noun* **:** the state or condition of not having any or enough of something : the state or condition of lacking something [*singular*] The problem is a *lack* of money. ▪ a *lack* of experience ▪ She has been suffering from a *lack* of sleep lately. [*noncount*] Her problem is *lack* of sleep. ▪ There was ***no lack of*** interest in the proposal. [=there was much interest in the proposal] ▪ His honesty, or ***lack thereof***, is the real problem. [=the real problem is his lack of honesty] ▪ They called it a comet, ***for lack of*** a better term/word. [=because they could not think of a better term/word for it]

lack•a•dai•si•cal /ˌlækəˈdeɪzɪkəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] **:** feeling or showing a lack of interest or enthusiasm ▪ a *lackadaisical* student ▪ His teachers did not approve of his *lackadaisical* approach to homework.

– lack•a•dai•si•cal•ly /ˌlækəˈdeɪzɪkli/ *adv*

lack•ey /ˈlæki/ *noun, pl* **-eys** [*count*] *disapproving* **:** a person who is or acts like a weak servant of someone powerful ▪ He was nothing but a spineless *lackey* of the establishment. ▪ a celebrity surrounded by his *lackeys*

lack•ing /ˈlækɪŋ/ *adj*

1 : not having any or enough of something that is needed or wanted ▪ Evidence that supports his claims is *lacking*. ▪ Her performance was somehow *lacking*. — often + *in* ▪ This wine is *lacking in* any real flavor. [=this wine does not have any real flavor] ▪ The applicant was completely/totally *lacking in* experience. ▪ The case was found (to be) *lacking in* merit.

2 : needed, wanted, or expected but not present or available ▪ There was something *lacking* [=*missing*] in her performance.

lack•lus•ter (*US*) *or Brit* **lack•lus•tre** /ˈlækˌlʌstɚ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] **:** lacking excitement or interest ▪ a *lackluster* [=*dull, mediocre*] performance ▪ His writing can be *lackluster* [=*uninspired*] at times.

la•con•ic /ləˈkɑːnɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] **:** using few words in speech or writing ▪ a *laconic* reply/response ▪ a *laconic* manner/style ▪ *laconic* humor ▪ He had a reputation for being *laconic*. ***synonyms*** see CONCISE

– la•con•i•cal•ly /ləˈkɑːnɪkli/ *adv*

lac•quer /ˈlækɚ/ *noun, pl* **-quers** [*count, noncount*] **:** a liquid that is spread on wood or metal and that dries to form a hard and shiny surface ▪ Many coats of *lacquer* were applied to the table.

– lac•quered /ˈlækɚd/ *adj* ▪ a *lacquered* table

la•crosse /lə'krɑːs/ *noun* [*noncount*] : an outdoor game in which players use long-handled sticks with nets for catching, throwing, and carrying the ball


lacrosse

lac•tate /'læk,teɪt/ *verb* **-tates**; **-tat•ed**; **-tat•ing** [*no obj*] *technical, of a woman or a female animal* : to produce milk ▪ *lactating* mothers
– **lac•ta•tion** /læk'teɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

lac•tic acid /'læktɪk-/ *noun* [*noncount*] *technical* : a chemical produced by the body in your muscles during exercise

lac•tose /'læk,toʊs/ *noun* [*noncount*] *chemistry* : a type of sugar that is present in milk ▪ people who are ***lactose intolerant*** [=unable to digest lactose]

la•cu•na /lə'kuːnə, *Brit* lə'kjuːnə/ *noun, pl* **-nae** /-,naɪ/ *or* **-nas** [*count*] *formal* : a gap or blank space in something : a missing part ▪ She found a *lacuna* in the historical record.

lacy /'leɪsi/ *adj* **lac•i•er**; **-est**
1 : made of lace ▪ a *lacy* veil/border
2 : resembling lace ▪ The flower's petals are *lacy* and delicate.

lad /'læd/ *noun, pl* **lads** [*count*] *informal*
1 *chiefly Brit* : a boy or young man ▪ a charming young *lad* ▪ Life was hard when I was a *lad*. ▪ Well, *lad*, I hope you won't make the same mistake again! ▪ He's a good *lad* at heart. — compare LASS
2 *Brit* : a man with whom you are friendly : FELLOW, CHAP ▪ They can't treat us like that, can they, *lads*?! ▪ He was out drinking with ***the lads*** [=(*US*) *the guys, the boys*] at the pub.
✧ In British English, a man who is ***a bit of a lad*** does things that are considered a bit wild, such as getting drunk and having sexual relations with many women. ▪ He was *a bit of a lad* until he settled down.

lad•der /'lædɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ders** [*count*]
1 : a device used for climbing that has two long pieces of wood, metal, or rope with a series of steps or rungs between them ▪ *climb* a ladder — see also STEPLADDER
2 : a series of steps or stages by which someone moves up to a higher or better position ▪ He was moving up the corporate *ladder*. ▪ climbing the social *ladder* ▪ She worked her way up from the lowest rung on the economic *ladder*.
3 *Brit* : a long hole in a stocking : RUN ▪ She got/had a *ladder* in her stocking.
– **ladder** *verb* **-ders**; **-dered**; **-der•ing** [*no obj*] *Brit* ▪ My stockings *laddered*. [+ *obj*] *laddered* tights

lad•die /'lædi/ *noun, pl* **-dies** [*count*] *chiefly Scotland, informal* : a young boy ▪ a wee *laddie* — compare LASSIE

lad•dish /'lædɪʃ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *Brit, informal* : having qualities or ways of behaving that are considered typical of young men ▪ a *laddish* actor ▪ *laddish* horseplay
– **lad•dish•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

lad•en /'leɪdn̩/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : loaded heavily with something : having or carrying a large amount of something ▪ a richly/heavily *laden* buffet table [=a buffet table on which there is a large amount of food] ▪ sugar-*laden* junk food — usually + *with* ▪ mules/trucks heavily *laden with* supplies ▪ branches *laden with* fruit ▪ airline passengers *laden with* luggage — often used figuratively ▪ The song is *laden with* meaning and feeling. [=the song has/carries a lot of meaning and feeling] ▪ His voice was heavily *laden with* sarcasm. [=his voice was very sarcastic]

la–di–da /,lɑ,di'dɑː/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *informal* : acting or talking in a false and annoying way that is thought to be typical of rich and important people ▪ some *la-di-da* movie star ▪ talking with a *la-di-da* accent

la•dies /'leɪdiz/ *noun* [*singular*] *Brit, informal* : LADIES' ROOM — usually used with *the* ▪ Can you tell me where *the ladies* is, please? — compare GENTS

ladies' man *noun, pl* ~ **men** [*count*] *informal* : a man who enjoys being with and giving attention to women ▪ He considered himself a real *ladies' man*.

ladies' room *noun, pl* ~ **rooms** [*count*] *US* : a public bathroom for use by women and girls — called also (*US*) *women's room*, (*Brit*) *ladies*; compare MEN'S ROOM

[1]la•dle /'leɪdl̩/ *noun, pl* **la•dles** [*count*] : a large and deep spoon with a long handle that is used for serving a liquid ▪ a soup *ladle*

[2]ladle *verb* **ladles**; **la•dled**; **la•dling** [+ *obj*] : to take up and carry (a liquid) by using a large spoon : to serve (a liquid) with a ladle ▪ The soup was *ladled* into the bowls. ▪ *ladling* the wine into cups — often + *out* ▪ volunteers *ladling out* soup to homeless people — sometimes used figuratively ▪ He's always *ladling out* unwanted advice to his friends.

la•dy /'leɪdi/ *noun, pl* **-dies** [*count*]
1 : a woman who behaves in a polite way ▪ Her mother was always telling her to act like a *lady*. ▪ She's a real *lady*.
2 : WOMAN ▪ He bumped into some *lady* walking to the bus stop. ▪ (*chiefly US, informal*) She's one feisty/sexy *lady*, I can tell you! ▪ He helped ***a little old lady*** cross the street. — used especially in polite speech or when speaking to a group of women ▪ The *lady* behind the counter will take your order. ▪ She told her little boy to say "thank you" to the nice *lady* for helping them. ▪ Would someone please get the/this *lady* a chair? ▪ Good evening, *ladies* and gentlemen! ▪ Please step this way, *ladies*. — sometimes used informally in U.S. English when speaking to one woman ▪ Hey, *lady*, you forgot your purse! [=(more commonly and politely) excuse me, ma'am, you forgot your purse] — sometimes used informally before another noun ▪ a *lady* doctor [=(more commonly and politely) a female/woman doctor] ✧ The phrase ***young lady*** is used in informal speech as a form of address for a girl or young woman. An angry parent speaking to a daughter, for example, might address her as *young lady*. ▪ Just where do you think you're going, *young lady*?! — see also BAG LADY, CLEANING LADY, DRAGON LADY, *lady luck* at [1]LUCK
3 : a woman of high social position ▪ the *ladies* of society
4 a *informal* : a man's girlfriend ▪ I've been wanting to meet his new *lady*. **b** *chiefly Brit, old-fashioned* : a man's wife ▪ What would you and your good *lady* like to drink?
5 *Lady* : a woman who is a member of the nobility — used as a title ▪ *Lady* Margaret
it ain't over until/till the fat lady sings *US, informal* — used to say that the final result of something (such as a sports contest) has not yet been decided and could still change ▪ We're losing, but remember: *it ain't over till the fat lady sings*. [=the game is not over; there is still a chance that we could win]
– see also FIRST LADY, LEADING LADY, OLD LADY

la•dy•bug /'leɪdi,bʌg/ *noun, pl* **-bugs** [*count*] *US* : a type of small flying insect that has a round red back with dark spots — called also (*Brit*) *la•dy•bird* /'leɪdi,bɚd/ see color picture on page C10

la•dy–in–wait•ing /'leɪdijɪn'weɪtɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **la•dies–in–wait•ing** [*count*] : a woman whose job is provide help to a queen or princess

la•dy–kill•er /'leɪdi'kɪlɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *informal* + *somewhat old-fashioned* : a man who is known for being very attractive to women and who has relations with many women ▪ He had a reputation as a real *lady-killer*.

la•dy•like /'leɪdi,laɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : polite and quiet in a way that has traditionally been considered suited to a woman ▪ *ladylike* behavior ▪ encouraging young women to be more *ladylike*

lady of the house *noun*
the lady of the house *somewhat old-fashioned* : the female family member who has the most responsibility for taking care of and making decisions about the household ▪ Is the *lady of the house* at home?

La•dy•ship /'leɪdi,ʃɪp/ *noun, pl* **-ships** [*count*] *chiefly Brit* — used in addressing or referring to a woman who is a member of the nobility ▪ *Her Ladyship* is not at home. ▪ Can I get *Your Ladyship* anything else?

[1]lag /'læg/ *verb* **lags**; **lagged**; **lag•ging**
1 [*no obj*] **a** : to move more slowly than others : to fail to walk or move as quickly as others — usually + *behind* ▪ One of the hikers kept *lagging behind* the rest of the group. ▪ We had to stop and wait because someone was *lagging behind*. **b** : to be in a position that is behind others — usually + *behind* ▪ a politician who is *lagging behind* [=*trailing*] in the election campaign ▪ The company has *lagged behind* its competitors in developing new products.
2 [*no obj*] : to happen or develop more slowly than expected or wanted — usually + *behind* ▪ Production has continued to *lag* (far/well/way) *behind* schedule/demand.
– compare [3]LAG

[2]lag *noun, pl* **lags** [*singular*] : a space of time between two events ▪ There is a *lag* of a day or two between the time you deposit a check and the time the funds are available for withdrawal. ▪ There is a slight *lag* between the time when the camera's shutter is pressed and the actual taking of the pic-

ture. ▪ Work on the project has resumed after a *lag* of several months. — called also *time lag*; see also JET LAG

[3]lag *verb* **lags**; **lagged**; **lagging** [+ *obj*] *Brit* : to cover (something, such as a pipe) with a special material (called lagging) that keeps it from losing or gaining heat ▪ Be sure to *lag* [=*insulate*] the pipe to prevent heat loss. — compare [1]LAG

la•ger /ˈlɑːgɚ/ *noun, pl* **-gers** [*count, noncount*] : a type of beer that is light in color and is aged at cool temperatures ▪ a pint of *lager*

lager lout *noun, pl* ~ **louts** [*count*] *Brit, informal* : a man who gets drunk and then behaves badly

lag•gard /ˈlægɚd/ *noun, pl* **-gards** [*count*] *somewhat old-fashioned* : a person or thing that does not go or move as quickly as others ▪ The company has been a *laggard* in developing new products.
– **laggard** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ He was *laggard* [=*slow*] in payment of his debts.

lag•ging /ˈlægɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] *Brit* : a special material that is used to cover something (such as a pipe) to keep it from losing or gaining heat

la•goon /ləˈguːn/ *noun, pl* **-goons** [*count*] : an area of sea water that is separated from the ocean by a reef or sandbar ▪ a tropical blue *lagoon*

laid *past tense and past participle of* [1]LAY

laid–back /ˈleɪdˈbæk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *informal* : relaxed and calm ▪ My boss is pretty *laid-back* about most things. ▪ a *laid-back* attitude ▪ He enjoyed the restaurant's *laid-back* style.

lain *past participle of* [1]LIE

lair /ˈleɚ/ *noun, pl* **lairs** [*count*]
1 : the place where a wild animal sleeps ▪ tracking the bear back to its *lair*
2 : a place where someone hides or where someone goes to be alone and to feel safe or comfortable ▪ the villain's *lair* ▪ She runs the project from her private *lair* in the suburbs.

laird /ˈleɚd/ *noun, pl* **lairds** [*count*] : a man who owns a large amount of land in Scotland

lairy /ˈleri/ *adj* **lair•i•er**; **-est** [*also more* ~; *most* ~] *Brit slang* : unpleasantly loud, confident, etc. ▪ When he drinks he gets a bit *lairy*.

[1]lais•sez–faire /ˌlɛˌseɪˈfeɚ/ *noun* [*noncount*] *economics* : a policy that allows businesses to operate with very little interference from the government ▪ a strong advocate of *laissez-faire*

[2]laissez–faire *adj, always used before a noun* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *economics* : favoring a policy that allows businesses to operate with very little interference from the government ▪ *laissez-faire* capitalism/economics — often used figuratively ▪ She took a *laissez-faire* approach to managing her employees. [=she allowed her employees to do what they chose to do without much direction from her]

la•ity /ˈleɪjəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the people of a religion who are not priests, ministers, etc. ▪ a member of the *laity* ▪ The *laity* has/have played an important role in the history of the church. — compare CLERGY, LAYMAN, LAYWOMAN

lake /ˈleɪk/ *noun, pl* **lakes** [*count*] : a large area of water that is surrounded by land ▪ They own a cottage at/by/on the *lake*. ▪ the shores of the *lake* — often used in names ▪ *Lake* Michigan — see color picture on page C7
(go) jump in a/the lake *chiefly US, informal* — used as an angry way to tell someone to go away ▪ I was so mad at him that I told him to *go jump in a lake*.

lake•front /ˈleɪkˌfrʌnt/ *noun, pl* **-fronts** [*count*] *chiefly US* : the land beside a lake ▪ We went for a walk down at the *lakefront*. — often used before another noun ▪ *lakefront* property

lake•shore /ˈleɪkˌʃoɚ/ *noun, pl* **-shores** [*count*] : the shore of a lake ▪ Follow this path to the *lakeshore*.; *also* : LAKEFRONT ▪ *lakeshore* condominiums

lake•side /ˈleɪkˌsaɪd/ *noun, pl* **-sides** [*count*] : LAKEFRONT — usually used before another noun ▪ a *lakeside* home/cottage/community

la–la land /ˈlɑːˌlɑː-/ *noun* [*noncount*] *informal*
1 : the mental state of someone who is not aware of what is really happening — usually used in the phrase ***in la-la land*** ▪ I tried to talk to him, but he was off *in la-la land*. ▪ If that's what she thinks, she's living *in la-la land*. — called also (*Brit*) *cloud-cuckoo-land*
2 *La-La Land* — used as a nickname for Los Angeles, California ▪ stories about life in *La-La Land*

lam /ˈlæm/ *noun*
on the lam *US, informal* : trying to avoid being caught by the police ▪ two escaped convicts *on the lam* ✧ If you ***take it on the lam***, you try to escape. This expression is now used mainly to suggest or imitate the language of old movies about gangsters. ▪ She stole a lot of money from her employer and *took it on the lam*.

la•ma /ˈlɑːmə/ *noun, pl* **-mas** [*count*] : a Buddhist priest of Tibet or Mongolia

La•maze /ləˈmɑːz/ *adj, always used before a noun, medical* : of or relating to a method of preparing women to give birth to children without the use of drugs ▪ taking *Lamaze* classes ▪ the *Lamaze* method

[1]lamb /ˈlæm/ *noun, pl* **lambs**
1 a [*count*] : a young sheep ▪ She's as gentle as a *lamb*. ▪ a sacrificial *lamb* — compare EWE, [1]RAM **b** [*noncount*] : the meat of a lamb ▪ leg/rack of *lamb* ▪ *lamb* chops
2 [*count*] *informal* : an innocent, weak, or gentle person ▪ You poor *lamb*.
like a lamb to the slaughter : in a very innocent way : without knowing that something bad will happen ▪ He walked into the meeting *like a lamb to the slaughter*.
mutton dressed as lamb see MUTTON

[2]lamb *verb* **lambs**; **lambed**; **lamb•ing** [*no obj*] *of a sheep* : to give birth to a lamb ▪ The ewes will *lamb* soon.

lam•baste *or* **lam•bast** /ˌlæmˈbeɪst, ˌlæmˈbæst/ *verb* **-bastes** *or* **-basts**; **-bast•ed**; **-bast•ing** [+ *obj*] : to criticize (someone or something) very harshly ▪ The coach *lambasted* the team for its poor play. ▪ They wrote several letters *lambasting* the new law.

lam•bent /ˈlæmbənt/ *adj, formal + literary*
1 : shining or glowing softly ▪ *lambent* flames ▪ *lambent* sunlight glinting off the waves
2 : having a light, appealing quality ▪ a writer known for her *lambent* wit

lamb•skin /ˈlæmˌskɪn/ *noun, pl* **-skins** [*count, noncount*] : the skin of a lamb ▪ gloves made of *lambskin* — often used before another noun ▪ *lambskin* gloves

lambs•wool /ˈlæmzˌwʊl/ *noun* [*noncount*] : soft wool from lambs — often used before another noun ▪ a *lambswool* sweater

lame /ˈleɪm/ *adj* **lam•er**; **-est** [*also more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : having an injured leg or foot that makes walking difficult or painful ▪ a *lame* horse ▪ The horse had gone *lame*, and it grew *lamer*. ▪ The accident left him *lame* for life.
2 *informal* : not strong, good, or effective : WEAK ▪ He offered a *lame* apology/defense/excuse for his actions. ▪ That joke was *lame*.
3 *US, informal* : not smart or impressive ▪ She's nice, but her boyfriend is really *lame*.
the lame : people who are lame ▪ providing care for the sick and *the lame*
– **lame•ly** *adv* ▪ He hobbled *lamely* down the path. ▪ He *lamely* listed his excuses. – **lame•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ a common cause of *lameness* in horses ▪ the *lameness* of his excuse

la•mé /lɑˈmeɪ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : shiny cloth that contains silver or gold threads

lame•brain /ˈleɪmˌbreɪn/ *noun, pl* **-brains** [*count*] *US, informal* : a stupid person ▪ Listen, *lamebrain*, we've had enough of your idiotic suggestions!
– **lamebrain** *or* **lame•brained** /ˈleɪmˌbreɪnd/ *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ *lamebrain* [=*stupid*] ideas ▪ The movie is a *lamebrained* comedy.

lame duck *noun, pl* ~ **ducks** [*count*]
1 *chiefly US* : an elected official whose time in an office or position will soon end ▪ The President was a *lame duck* during the end of his second term. — often used before another noun ▪ a *lame-duck* president
2 *chiefly Brit* : a person, company, etc., that is weak or unsuccessful and needs help

[1]la•ment /ləˈmɛnt/ *verb* **-ments**; **-ment•ed**; **-ment•ing** *formal* : to express sorrow, regret, or unhappiness about something [*no obj*] She *lamented* over the loss of her best friend. ▪ (*chiefly US*) He was *lamenting* about rising gasoline prices. [+ *obj*] She *lamented* (the fact) that she had lost her best friend. = She *lamented* having lost her best friend. = She *lamented* the loss of her best friend. ▪ "I've lost my best friend!" she *lamented*. — see also LAMENTED

[2]lament *noun, pl* **-ments** [*count*] *formal* : an expression of sorrow; *especially* : a song or poem that expresses sorrow for someone who has died or something that is gone ▪ The poem is a *lament* for a lost love.

la•men•ta•ble /lə'mɛntəbəl, 'læməntəbəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal* : deserving to be criticized or regretted ▪ The region has a long and *lamentable* [=*regrettable*] history of ethnic fighting. ▪ a *lamentable* [=*unfortunate*] consequence of the war
– **la•men•ta•bly** /lə'mɛntəbli, 'læməntəbli/ *adv* ▪ Funding for the project was *lamentably* low. ▪ *Lamentably*, they were unprepared for the disaster.

lam•en•ta•tion /ˌlæmən'teɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** *formal* : an expression of great sorrow or deep sadness [*count*] bitter *lamentations* for the dead [*noncount*] words spoken in *lamentation* for the dead

la•ment•ed /lə'mɛntəd/ *adj, always used before a noun* : deeply missed — used to refer to someone who has died ▪ her ***late lamented*** husband

[1]lam•i•nate /'læməˌneɪt/ *verb* **-nates**; **-nat•ed**; **-nat•ing** [+ *obj*] : to cover (something) with a thin layer of clear plastic for protection ▪ *laminate* a photograph

[2]lam•i•nate /'læmənət/ *noun, pl* **-nates** : a product made by pressing together thin layers of material [*noncount*] The kitchen counters are made of plastic *laminate*. [*count*] plastic *laminates*

lam•i•na•ted /'læməˌneɪtəd/ *adj*
1 : made by pressing together thin layers of material ▪ *laminated* wood ▪ *laminated* kitchen counters
2 : covered with a thin layer of clear plastic for protection ▪ a *laminated* photograph

lamp /'læmp/ *noun, pl* **lamps** [*count*]
1 : a device that produces light ▪ turn on/off the *lamp* ▪ a street *lamp* ▪ a table/desk *lamp* ▪ an ***oil lamp*** [=a device that produces light by burning oil] — see picture at LIVING ROOM; see also FLOOR LAMP
2 : LIGHT BULB

lamp•light /'læmpˌlaɪt/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the light of a lamp ▪ We could see the glow of *lamplight* in the window.

[1]lam•poon /læm'pu:n/ *verb* **-poons**; **-pooned**; **-poon•ing** [+ *obj*] : to publicly criticize (someone or something) in a way that causes laughter : to mock or make fun of (someone or something) ▪ The politician was *lampooned* in cartoons.

[2]lampoon *noun, pl* **-poons** [*count*] : a piece of writing, a cartoon, etc., that mocks or makes fun of a well-known person or thing ▪ He said such ridiculous things that he was often the target of *lampoons* in the press.

lamp•post /'læmpˌpoʊst/ *noun, pl* **-posts** [*count*] : a post with an outdoor lamp on top

lamp•shade /'læmpˌʃeɪd/ *noun, pl* **-shades** [*count*] : a cover that softens or directs the light of a lamp ▪ a silk/glass/paper *lampshade*

LAN /'læn, ˌɛlˌeɪ'ɛn/ *noun, pl* **LANs** [*count*] : LOCAL AREA NETWORK

[1]lance /'læns, *Brit* 'lɑ:ns/ *noun, pl* **lanc•es** [*count*] : a long, pointed weapon used in the past by knights riding on horses

[2]lance *verb* **lances**; **lanced**; **lanc•ing** [+ *obj*] *medical* : to cut (an infected area on a person's skin) with a sharp tool so that pus will flow out ▪ He had the boil/blister on his arm *lanced*.

lance corporal *noun, pl* **~ -rals** [*count*] : a person in the U.S. Marines, the Royal Marines, or the British Army with a rank just below that of corporal

lan•cet /'lænsət, *Brit* 'lɑ:nsət/ *noun, pl* **-cets** [*count*] *medical* : a sharp tool used for cutting the skin

[1]land /'lænd/ *noun, pl* **lands**
1 [*noncount*] : the solid part of the surface of the Earth : an area of ground ▪ arid/fertile/flat *land* ▪ the *land* along the highway ▪ The *land* stretched as far as you could see. ▪ They cleared some *land* to grow crops. ▪ After two days of sailing, we were miles from *land*. ▪ They invaded the country by *land* and by sea. — often used before another noun ▪ *land* animals [=animals that live on land] ▪ a total *land* area of two miles ▪ a *land* battle/war [=a battle/war fought on the ground rather than at sea or in the air] — see also DRY LAND, LAY OF THE LAND, WETLAND
2 : an area of the earth's solid surface that is owned by someone [*noncount*] They own *land* in Alaska. ▪ They bought some *land* and built a house. ▪ a piece/plot of *land* [*plural*] His *lands* extend as far as the eye can see. — often used before another noun ▪ *land* development/ownership/prices
3 [*count*] : a country or nation ▪ He was the most powerful politician in the *land*. ▪ foreign *lands* ▪ the *lands* of/in the Far East ▪ He always remained loyal to his ***native land***. [=the country in which he was born] ▪ America, the ***land of opportunity*** — sometimes used figuratively ▪ in the *land* [=*realm*] of dreams ▪ a *land* of illusion — see also DREAMLAND, LA-LA LAND, NEVER-NEVER LAND, NO-MAN'S LAND, PROMISED LAND
4 *the land* : land in the countryside that is thought of as providing a simple and good way of living ▪ He wanted to move/get back to *the land*. ▪ people who are ***living off the land*** [=getting food by farming, hunting, etc.] ▪ farmers ***working the land*** [=planting and growing crops]
how the land lies *chiefly Brit* : the true facts about a situation ▪ Let's see *how the land lies* before we make any decisions. ▪ We don't know *how the land lies*.
in the land of the living *informal* : ALIVE ▪ I hadn't heard from him for years and was glad to find him still *in the land of the living*.
land of milk and honey : a place where there is plenty of food and money and life is very easy ▪ Many immigrants thought that America was a *land of milk and honey*.
live off/on the fat of the land see [2]FAT

[2]land *verb* **lands**; **land•ed**; **land•ing**
1 a [*no obj*] : to return to the ground or another surface after a flight ▪ The plane *landed* on the runway. ▪ We watched the seaplanes *landing* on the water. ▪ The bird *landed* in a tree. ▪ A butterfly *landed* on the flower. ▪ Our flight was scheduled to *land* in Pittsburgh at 4:00. ▪ It was raining heavily at the airport when we *landed*. ▪ The plane *landed* safely. **b** [+ *obj*] : to cause (an airplane, helicopter, etc.) to return to the ground or another surface after a flight ▪ The pilot was able to *land* the plane on the runway.
2 a [*no obj*] : to hit or come to a surface after falling or moving through the air ▪ I fell and *landed* on my shoulder. [=my shoulder hit the ground when I fell] ▪ He tripped and his plate *landed* on the floor. [=his plate fell to the floor] ▪ The golf ball *landed* in the trees. ▪ I could not see where the ball *landed*. ▪ The cat fell from the tree but *landed* on its feet. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ He lost his job but ***landed on his feet*** [=ended up in a good situation] when he was hired by another company just a few days later. **b** [+ *obj*] *sports* : to complete (a jump or other athletic movement) by landing on your feet ▪ The skater *landed* all her jumps. ▪ He *landed* his dismount from the parallel bars perfectly.
3 a [+ *obj*] : to cause (someone) to be in a specified place or situation ▪ The injury *landed* her in the hospital. ▪ His carelessness is going to *land* him in trouble. **b** [*no obj*] : to reach or come to a place or situation that was not planned or expected ▪ He *landed* (up) in jail. [=he ended up in jail] ▪ She took the wrong subway and *landed* on the other side of town. ▪ The team *landed* in first place. ▪ Another memo from the boss *landed* on my desk [=came to my desk] today.
4 [+ *obj*] : to succeed in getting (something) ▪ He *landed* the job. ▪ The salesman *landed* the order. ▪ She *landed* the lead part in the play.
5 a [+ *obj*] : to put (someone or something) onto the shore from a ship or boat ▪ The boat *landed* him close to the beach. ▪ The boat *landed* its cargo close to the beach. ▪ These craft are designed for *landing* troops and equipment. **b** [*no obj*] : to go onto the shore from a ship or boat ▪ The troops *landed* on the island. **c** [*no obj*] *of a ship or boat or its passengers* : to reach the shore ▪ Will the cruise ship *land* [=*arrive*] on schedule? ▪ The boat *landed* at dusk. ▪ There was nowhere for the boat to *land*.
6 [+ *obj*] : to catch and bring in (a fish) ▪ Farther down the stream he *landed* a trout.
7 [+ *obj*] : to hit someone with (a punch, blow, etc.) ▪ During the fight he never *landed* a punch.
land in your lap see [1]LAP
land with [*phrasal verb*] ***land (someone) with (something or someone)*** *Brit, informal* : to force (someone) to deal with (something or someone unpleasant) ▪ I always get *landed with* the washing-up.

land•ed /'lændəd/ *adj, always used before a noun*
1 : owning a large amount of land ▪ the *landed* gentry/aristocracy/class
2 : including a large amount of land ▪ a *landed* estate ▪ *landed* wealth

land•fall /'lændˌfɑ:l/ *noun, pl* **-falls** [*count*] : the land that is first seen or reached after a journey by sea or air ▪ From the deck of the boat, we saw our first *landfall*. ▪ They ***made landfall*** [=they reached land] on the fourth day of their journey.

land•fill /'lændˌfɪl/ *noun, pl* **-fills**
1 [*noncount*] : a system in which waste materials are buried under the ground ▪ using *landfill* to dispose of trash
2 : an area where waste is buried under the ground [*count*]

waste buried in *landfills* [*noncount*] Part of the city was built on *landfill*.

land•form /ˈlænd,foəm/ *noun, pl* **-forms** [*count*] *geology* : a natural feature (such as a mountain or valley) of the Earth's surface ▪ *landforms* created by glaciers

land•hold•er /ˈlænd,houldəɹ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a person who owns land : LANDOWNER ▪ a large *landholder* [=a person who owns a large amount of land]

– **land•hold•ing** /ˈlænd,houldɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-ings** [*count*] ▪ a wealthy man with large *landholdings*

land•ing /ˈlændɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-ings**

1 : an act of returning to the ground or another surface after a flight [*count*] The plane made a smooth/perfect *landing*. ▪ The helicopter had to make an emergency *landing*. ▪ The pilot was practicing takeoffs and *landings*. ▪ a lunar/moon *landing* [=a landing on the moon] [*noncount*] *Landing* in high winds can be dangerous. ▪ Our plane was cleared for *landing*. — often used before another noun ▪ an airplane's *landing* lights ▪ a *landing* zone/site — see also SOFT LANDING

2 [*count*] : a level area at the top of stairs or between two sets of stairs ▪ We stopped to rest at the first floor *landing*.

3 [*count*] : a place where boats and ships load and unload passengers and cargo ▪ I waited at the *landing* for the ferry.

4 [*count*] : a military action in which soldiers are brought by boat, airplane, helicopter, etc., to land at a place controlled by the enemy ▪ troop *landings*

landing craft *noun, pl* ~ **craft** [*count*] : a boat or ship designed to bring soldiers and equipment to the shore

landing field *noun, pl* ~ **fields** [*count*] : a field where aircraft land and take off : AIRFIELD

landing gear *noun* [*noncount*] : the wheels and other parts of an aircraft that support its weight when it is on the ground — called also *undercarriage*

landing strip *noun, pl* ~ **strips** [*count*] : AIRSTRIP

land•la•dy /ˈlænd,leɪdi/ *noun, pl* **-dies** [*count*]

1 : a woman who owns a house, apartment, etc., and rents it to other people

2 : a woman who runs an inn, pub, or rooming house — compare LANDLORD

land•less /ˈlændləs/ *adj* : not owning any land ▪ *landless* people

land•locked /ˈlænd,lɑ:kt/ *adj* : surrounded by land ▪ a *landlocked* country

land•lord /ˈlænd,loəɹd/ *noun, pl* **-lords** [*count*]

1 : a person who owns a house, apartment, etc., and rents it to other people — see also ABSENTEE LANDLORD

2 : a man who runs an inn, pub, or rooming house — compare LANDLADY

land•lub•ber /ˈlænd,lʌbəɹ/ *noun, pl* **-bers** [*count*] *old-fashioned + humorous* : a person who knows very little or nothing about the sea or ships : a person who is not a sailor

land•mark /ˈlænd,mɑəɹk/ *noun, pl* **-marks** [*count*]

1 a : an object or structure on land that is easy to see and recognize ▪ The Golden Gate Bridge is a famous/familiar *landmark* in San Francisco. **b** *US* : a building or place that was important in history ▪ The battlefield is a national historical *landmark*.

2 : a very important event or achievement ▪ The moon landing is a *landmark* in space exploration. ▪ The decision/ruling was a *landmark* in legal history. — often used before another noun ▪ a *landmark* legal case ▪ a *landmark* court decision ▪ a *landmark* discovery

land•mass /ˈlænd,mæs/ *noun, pl* **-mass•es** [*count*] : a very large area of land (such as a continent) ▪ continental *landmasses*

land mine *noun, pl* ~ **mines** [*count*] : a bomb that is buried in the ground and that explodes when someone steps on it or drives over it — sometimes used figuratively ▪ an issue that is an emotional/political *land mine* [=an issue that could cause great emotional/political damage; an explosive issue]

land•own•er /ˈlænd,ounəɹ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a person who owns land ▪ a large *landowner* [=a person who owns a large amount of land] ▪ a wealthy *landowner*

– **land•own•ing** /ˈlænd,ounɪŋ/ *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ *landowning* families

[1]land•scape /ˈlænd,skeɪp/ *noun, pl* **-scapes**

1 [*count*] : a picture that shows a natural scene of land or the countryside ▪ She likes to paint *landscapes*. ▪ a *landscape* painter/artist

2 [*count*] : an area of land that has a particular quality or appearance ▪ The farm is set in a *landscape* of rolling hills. ▪ He gazed out at the beautiful *landscape*. ▪ a desert/rural/urban *landscape* — see color picture on page C7

3 [*count*] : a particular area of activity ▪ The last several years have seen real changes in the political *landscape*. [=*scene*]

4 [*noncount*] : a way of printing a page so that the shorter sides are on the left and right and the longer sides are at the top and bottom — compare PORTRAIT

[2]landscape *verb* **-scapes**; **-scaped**; **-scap•ing** [+ *obj*] : to make changes to improve the appearance of (an area of land) ▪ A professional *landscaped* the yard. ▪ an area *landscaped* with flowering shrubs and trees ▪ a beautifully *landscaped* campus

– **land•scap•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ He hired professional *landscapers* to plan a garden. – **landscaping** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ We admired the beautiful *landscaping* of the campus/yard. ▪ a *landscaping* service

landscape architect *noun, pl* ~ **-tects** [*count*] : a person whose job is to plan and create large outdoor spaces such as gardens, parks, etc.

– **landscape architecture** *noun* [*noncount*]

landscape gardener *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] : a person who designs and creates large gardens

– **landscape gardening** *noun* [*noncount*]

land•slide /ˈlænd,slaɪd/ *noun, pl* **-slides** [*count*]

1 : a large mass of rocks and earth that suddenly and quickly moves down the side of a mountain or hill ▪ The earthquake triggered a *landslide*. ▪ They were buried under the *landslide*.

2 : an election in which the winner gets a much greater number of votes than the loser ▪ The presidential election turned out to be one of the biggest *landslides* in history. ▪ a *landslide* victory ▪ She won the election ***by/in a landslide***.

land•slip /ˈlænd,slɪp/ *noun, pl* **-slips** [*count*] *Brit* : LANDSLIDE 1

lane /ˈleɪn/ *noun, pl* **lanes** [*count*]

1 : a narrow road or path ▪ a country *lane* — often used in the names of streets ▪ Their house is on Maple *Lane*.

2 : a part of road that is marked by painted lines and that is for a single line of vehicles ▪ traffic *lanes* ▪ a highway with three *lanes* = a three-*lane* highway ▪ The truck's driver kept ***changing lanes***. — see also BREAKDOWN LANE, FAST LANE, PASSING LANE, SLOW LANE

3 : a narrow part of a track or swimming pool that is used by a single runner or swimmer in a race ▪ She moved to the outside *lane*.

4 : an ocean route used by ships ▪ shipping *lanes*

5 : a long narrow surface that is used for bowling ▪ a bowling *lane*

6 *US* : an area in a store (such as a supermarket) where customers form a line while waiting to pay for the things they are buying ▪ Customers with fewer than 12 items can use the ***express lane***. [=the lane that lets people pay for their items more quickly than other lanes]

memory lane see MEMORY

lan•guage /ˈlæŋgwɪʤ/ *noun, pl* **-guag•es**

1 a [*noncount*] : the system of words or signs that people use to express thoughts and feelings to each other ▪ spoken and written *language* ▪ the origin of *language* — often used before another noun ▪ *language* acquisition ▪ *language* skills — see also BODY LANGUAGE **b** [*count*] : any one of the systems of human language that are used and understood by a particular group of people ▪ the English *language* ▪ How many *languages* do you speak? ▪ a foreign *language* ▪ French is her first/native *language*. ▪ The book has been translated into several *languages*. ▪ He's learning English as a second *language*. ▪ After a few days in France, I realized that I didn't know the *language* [=I didn't know the French language] as well as I had thought. ▪ a new word that has recently entered the *language* ▪ a *language* instructor/teacher ▪ foreign *language* classes ▪ A ***language barrier*** existed between the two countries. [=people in the two countries did not understand each other because they spoke different languages] — see also SIGN LANGUAGE

2 [*noncount*] : words of a particular kind ▪ the formal *language* of the report ▪ the beauty of Shakespeare's *language* ▪ She expressed her ideas using simple and clear *language*. ▪ He is always careful in his use of *language*. ▪ bad/foul/obscene/strong/vulgar *language* ▪ You'd better ***watch your language*** [=be careful about the words you use] when you're talking to her.

3 [*noncount*] : the words and expressions used in a particular activity or by a particular group of people ▪ the *language* of

diplomacy/lawyers ▪ legal/military *language*

4 [*count*] : a system of signs and symbols that is used to control a computer ▪ a programming *language*

5 [*count*] : a system of sounds or movements by which animals communicate with each other ▪ the *language* of bees/dolphins

speak/talk the same language : to understand each other well because of shared ideas and feelings ▪ She and I will never get along. We just don't *speak the same language*.

language arts *noun* [*plural*] *chiefly US* : school subjects (such as reading, spelling, and writing) that relate to using language

language laboratory *noun, pl* ~ **-ries** [*count*] : a room with equipment (such as computers or tape recorders) where people can listen to and practice speaking foreign languages — called also *language lab*

lan·guid /ˈlæŋgwəd/ *adj, formal + literary* : showing or having very little strength, energy, or activity ▪ a long, *languid* sigh ▪ They proceeded at a *languid* pace. ▪ It was a hot, *languid* summer day.
– **lan·guid·ly** *adv* ▪ He was leaning *languidly* against the wall. ▪ The river moved *languidly*.

lan·guish /ˈlæŋgwɪʃ/ *verb* **-guish·es**; **-guished**; **-guish·ing** [*no obj*] *formal + literary* : to continue for a long time without activity or progress in an unpleasant or unwanted situation — usually + *in* ▪ The bill *languished in* the Senate for months. ▪ She *languished in* obscurity for many years until the success of her novel made her famous. ▪ an innocent man who has been *languishing in* prison for years

lan·guor /ˈlæŋgə/ *noun, literary* : a state of feeling tired and relaxed [*noncount*] They enjoyed the *languor* brought on by a hot summer afternoon. [*singular*] They felt an indefinable *languor*.
– **lan·guor·ous** /ˈlæŋgərəs/ *adj* ▪ a long *languorous* afternoon – **lan·guor·ous·ly** *adv*

lank /ˈlæŋk/ *adj, of hair* : hanging straight down in an unattractive way ▪ a woman with long, *lank* hair

lanky /ˈlæŋki/ *adj* **lank·i·er**; **-est** [*also more* ~; *most* ~] : tall and thin with usually an awkward quality ▪ a *lanky* teenager ▪ a *lanky* fashion model

lan·o·lin /ˈlænələn/ *noun* [*noncount*] : an oily substance that comes from sheep's wool and that is used for making soaps and lotions

lan·tern /ˈlæntən/ *noun, pl* **-terns** [*count*] : a light that has usually a glass covering and that can be carried by a handle — see picture at CAMPING; see also MAGIC LANTERN

lan·tern–jawed /ˈlæntənˌʤɑ:d/ *adj* — used to describe someone whose lower jaw sticks out beyond the upper jaw ▪ a tall *lantern-jawed* man

[1]lap /ˈlæp/ *noun, pl* **laps** [*count*] : the area between the knees and the hips of a person who is sitting down ▪ A child was sitting on his *lap*. ▪ She held the baby in/on her *lap*. ▪ He kept his hands in/on his *lap*. ▪ The students rested the books in/on their *laps*.

drop/fall into your lap *or* ***land in your lap*** *informal* ✧ If something good *drops/falls into your lap* or *lands in your lap*, it comes to you suddenly in an unexpected way even though you did not try to get it. ▪ This wonderful new job just *fell into my lap* when I was least expecting it!

drop/dump (something) in/into/on your lap *informal* ✧ If something is *dropped/dumped in/into/on your lap*, it is given to you suddenly even though you did not want it or expect it. ▪ Another major problem was *dumped into her lap*.

in the lap of luxury : in a situation of great ease, comfort, and wealth ▪ She was reared *in the lap of luxury*.

in the lap of the gods *chiefly Brit* : not yet decided or certain ▪ The election is too close to call: the result is *in the lap of the gods*.

– compare [3]LAP

[2]lap *verb* **laps**; **lapped**; **lap·ping** [+ *obj*]

1 : to cause (something) to partly cover something else — often + *over* ▪ *lap* one shingle *over* another

2 : to go past (another racer who is one or more laps behind you) ▪ When I *lapped* the runner who was in second place, I knew I'd have an easy victory.

– compare [4]LAP

[3]lap *noun, pl* **laps** [*count*]

1 : an act of going completely around a track or over a course when you are running, swimming, etc. ▪ The race is 12 *laps* long. ▪ With one *lap* remaining, the race was still close. ▪ the last/final *lap* of the race ▪ (*US*) He was swimming/doing *laps* in the pool. [=he was swimming from one end of the pool to the other and then back again] ✧ The winner of a race often takes a ***victory lap*** (*US*) or ***lap of honour*** (*Brit*) by going around the track or over the course alone one more time as a way to celebrate.

2 : a part of a journey ▪ They were in the last *lap* [=*stage, leg*] of their trip home from Europe.

– compare [1]LAP

[4]lap *verb* **laps**; **lapped**; **lap·ping**

1 : to drink by licking with the tongue [*no obj*] The dog was *lapping* at the water in the puddle. [+ *obj*] The cat *lapped* the water in the dish. — often + *up* ▪ The dog *lapped up* the water in the puddle. — often used figuratively ▪ The crowd *lapped up* every word he said. [=the crowd eagerly listened to and accepted every word he said] ▪ He was making some outrageous claims, but the audience was really ***lapping it up***.

2 *of water* : to move repeatedly over or against something in gentle waves [*no obj*] The waves *lapped* at/against the shore. [+ *obj*] Waves gently *lapped* the shore.

– compare [2]LAP
– **lapping** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *lapping* of the waves

lap belt *noun, pl* ~ **belts** [*count*] : a seat belt that fastens across your lap

lap dancing *noun* [*noncount*] : an activity in which a performer (such as a dancer at a nightclub or strip club) makes sexual movements while sitting on the lap of a customer
– **lap dance** *noun, pl* ~ **dances** [*count*] – **lap dancer** *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*]

lap·dog /ˈlæpˌdɑ:g/ *noun, pl* **-dogs** [*count*]

1 : a dog that is small enough to be held in a person's lap

2 : a weak person who is controlled by someone else ▪ His coworkers regarded him as the boss's *lap dog*.

la·pel /ləˈpɛl/ *noun, pl* **-pels** [*count*] : either one of the two folds of fabric that are below the collar on the front of a coat or jacket ▪ He wore a carnation in his *lapel*. — see color picture on page C15

la·pis la·zu·li /ˌlæpəsˈlæzəli, *Brit* ˌlæpəsˈlæzjʊli/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a deep blue stone that is used in jewelry — called also *lapis*; see color picture on page C11

[1]lapse /ˈlæps/ *noun, pl* **laps·es** [*count*]

1 a : an occurrence in which you fail to think or act in the usual or proper way for a brief time and make a mistake ▪ He blamed the error on a minor mental *lapse*. ▪ As he grew older he began to have ***memory lapses*** [=times when he forgot things that he should have remembered] — often + *in* ▪ a *lapse in* decorum/civility/judgment ▪ a serious *lapse in* security — often + *of* ▪ She had a brief *lapse of* attention/concentration. **b** : an occurrence in which someone behaves badly for usually a short period of time ▪ moral *lapses* ▪ a politician who is being accused of ethical *lapses* [=accused of doing things that are not ethical] **c** : a change that results in worse behavior ▪ a *lapse* into bad habits

2 : a period of time between events — often + *of* ▪ He returned to college after a *lapse of* several years.

3 : the ending of something that happens when the payments necessary for it to continue are not made — often + *of* ▪ the *lapse of* an insurance policy ▪ the *lapse of* a magazine subscription

[2]lapse *verb* **lapses**; **lapsed**; **laps·ing** [*no obj*]

1 : to stop for usually a brief time ▪ After a few polite words the conversation *lapsed*. ▪ Her interest in politics *lapsed* while she was in medical school.

2 : to become no longer effective or valid ▪ She didn't pay the premium and her life insurance policy *lapsed*. ▪ He forgot to renew his driver's license, so it *lapsed*. ▪ She allowed the magazine subscription to *lapse*.

lapse into [*phrasal verb*] ***lapse into (something)*** **1** : to begin using or doing (something that should be avoided) for a short period of time ▪ He's a good writer, but he occasionally *lapses into* jargon. **2** : to begin to be in (a worse or less active state or condition) ▪ The crowd *lapsed into* silence. ▪ The patient *lapsed into* [=*slipped into*] a coma. ▪ He *lapsed into* unconsciousness. ▪ The society *lapsed into* decline.

lapsed *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : no longer believing or following the teachings of a religion ▪ a *lapsed* Catholic/Mormon

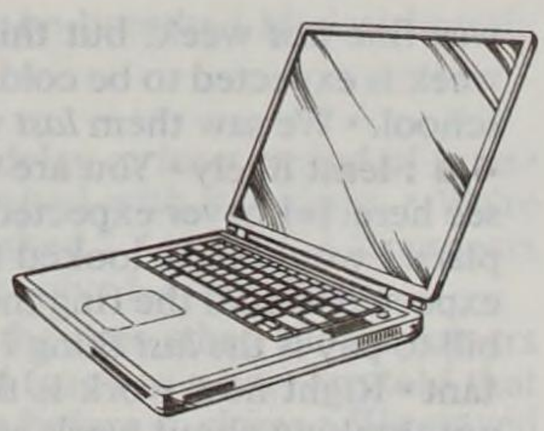
2 : no longer effective or valid ▪ a *lapsed* insurance policy

lap·top /ˈlæpˌtɑ:p/ *noun, pl* **-tops** [*count*] : a small computer that is designed to be easily carried ▪ He uses a *laptop* for business when he travels. — called also *laptop computer*; compare DESKTOP

lar·ce·ny /ˈlɑəsəni/ *noun, pl* **-nies** *law* : the act of stealing

something : THEFT [*noncount*] He was arrested and charged with *larceny*. [*count*] He has been accused of several *larcenies*. — see also GRAND LARCENY, PETIT LARCENY

– lar•ce•nous /ˈlɑɚsənəs/ *adj* ▪ a *larcenous* act



laptop

larch /ˈlɑɚʧ/ *noun, pl* **larch•es** [*count, noncount*] : a type of tree that is related to the pines and that drops its needles in the winter

[1]lard /ˈlɑɚd/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a soft white substance that is made from the fat of pigs and used in cooking

[2]lard *verb* **lards**; **lard•ed**; **lard•ing** [+ *obj*] : to put pieces of fat onto or into (something) before cooking ▪ a roast *larded* with bacon

lard with [*phrasal verb*] ***lard (something) with (something)*** : to add a large amount of (something) to (something) ▪ He always *lards* his lectures *with* statistics. [=he always includes many statistics in his lectures] — often used as *(be) larded with* ▪ a novel *larded with* clichés ▪ Her comments *were larded with* phony sentiment.

lar•der /ˈlɑɚdɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a small room or area where food is kept : PANTRY

[1]large /ˈlɑɚʤ/ *adj* **larg•er**; **-est**

1 : great in size or amount : BIG ▪ a *large* room ▪ a *large* corporation ▪ a *large* glass of water ▪ It's the *largest* city in the state. ▪ It's the third *largest* city in the state. [=there are two other cities that are larger] ▪ These T-shirts are available in three sizes: small, medium, and *large*. ▪ Which city has the *largest* population? ▪ Her policies are supported by a *large* part/portion/percentage of the population. ▪ A *large* number of workers have filed complaints. ▪ She used to be thin, but she's gotten a bit *large* [=(less politely) *fat*] in recent years. ▪ He's a very *large* man. [=(usually) a tall and heavy man] ▪ He has a very *large* appetite.

2 : not limited in importance, range, etc. ▪ She's planning to play a *larger* [=more active] role in the negotiations. ▪ We need to take a/the *large* view of this issue. [=we need to look at this issue in a broad or general way]

(as) large as life see [1]LIFE

at large **1** : not having been captured ▪ The criminal is still *at large*. [=*free*] **2** : as a group : as a whole ▪ His statements do not reflect the beliefs of the public *at large*. [=the beliefs of most people] ▪ society *at large* **3** *US* : not having a specific subject ▪ a critic *at large* [=a critic who writes about many different things] **4** *US, politics* : representing a whole state or area rather than one of its parts — used in combination with a preceding noun ▪ a city councilor-*at-large*

bulk large see [3]BULK

by and large see [2]BY

in large part *or* ***in large measure*** : not entirely but mostly : LARGELY ▪ The success of the play was *in large part* due to the director. ▪ The economy is based *in large measure* [=*for the most part*] on farming.

larger than life **1** : bigger than the size of an actual person or thing ▪ The statue is *larger than life*. ▪ a *larger-than-life* image **2** *of a person* : having an unusually exciting, impressive, or appealing quality ▪ My grandmother was a remarkable woman who always seemed *larger than life* to me. ▪ a *larger-than-life* hero

live large see [1]LIVE

loom large see [1]LOOM

to a large extent see EXTENT

writ large see [2]WRIT

– large•ness *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *largeness* of the dog ▪ the *largeness* of the population

[2]large *noun, pl* **larg•es** [*count*] : something that is sold in a large size : something that is bigger than others of the same kind ▪ These shirts are all *larges*. ▪ "What size ice-cream cones do you want?" "We'll take three *larges* and a small."

large intestine *noun, pl* **~ -tines** [*count*] : the end part of the intestine that is wider and shorter than the small intestine — see picture at HUMAN

large•ly /ˈlɑɚʤli/ *adv* [*more ~; most ~*] : not completely but mostly ▪ The story is *largely* true. ▪ He is *largely* responsible for the problem. ▪ The economy is based *largely* on farming.

large–scale *adj*

1 : involving many people or things ▪ Their equipment isn't suitable for *large-scale* production. [=it cannot be used to make things in large amounts]

2 : covering or involving a large area ▪ a *large-scale* network ▪ a *large-scale* map

lar•gesse *also* **lar•gess** /lɑɚˈʒɛs/ *noun* [*noncount*] *somewhat formal* : the act of giving away money or the quality of a person who gives away money ▪ He relied on the *largesse* of friends after he lost his job. ▪ a philanthropist known for his *largesse* [=*generosity*]; *also* : money that is given away ▪ projects depending on a flow of federal *largesse* [=money from the federal government]

larg•ish /ˈlɑɚʤɪʃ/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : fairly large ▪ He has a *largish* nose.

[1]lark /ˈlɑɚk/ *noun, pl* **larks** [*count*] : any one of several birds that usually have pleasant songs — see also MEADOWLARK, SKYLARK — compare [2]LARK

[2]lark *noun, pl* **larks** *informal*

1 [*count*] : something done for enjoyment or adventure ▪ (*US*) She entered the race ***on/as a lark***. = (*chiefly Brit*) She entered the race ***for a lark***. [=she entered the race just as a way to have fun]

2 [*noncount*] *Brit* : activity of a specified kind : BUSINESS ▪ All this housework *lark* is harder than I thought!

– compare [1]LARK

[3]lark *verb* **larks**; **larked**; **lark•ing**

lark about *or* ***lark around*** [*phrasal verb*] *Brit informal* : to behave in a silly and enjoyable way ▪ The girls were *larking about* in the backyard.

lar•va /ˈlɑɚvə/ *noun, pl* **lar•vae** /ˈlɑɚˌviː/ [*count*] : a very young form of an insect that looks like a worm ▪ The *larva* of a butterfly is called a caterpillar.

– lar•val /ˈlɑɚvəl/ *adj* ▪ the *larval* stage of an insect

lar•yn•gi•tis /ˌlerənˈʤaɪtəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : a disease in which your throat and larynx become sore so that it is difficult to talk

lar•ynx /ˈlerɪŋks/ *noun, pl* **la•ryn•ges** /ləˈrɪnˌʤiːz/ *or* **lar•ynx•es** [*count*] *medical* : the part of your throat that contains the vocal cords — called also *voice box*

la•sa•gna (*chiefly US*) *or chiefly Brit* **la•sa•gne** /ləˈzɑːnjə, *Brit* ləˈsænjə/ *noun, pl* **-gnas** [*count, noncount*] : a type of Italian food that has layers of flat noodles baked with a sauce usually of tomatoes, cheese, and meat — see picture at PASTA

las•civ•i•ous /ləˈsɪvijəs/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *disapproving* : filled with or showing sexual desire ▪ *lascivious* acts/thoughts ▪ a *lascivious* young man ▪ He was arrested for ***lewd and lascivious*** behavior.

– las•civ•i•ous•ly *adv* **– las•civ•i•ous•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

la•ser /ˈleɪzɚ/ *noun, pl* **-sers** [*count*] : a device that produces a narrow and powerful beam of light that has many special uses in medicine, industry, etc. ▪ doctors using a *laser* to perform delicate eye surgery — often used before another noun ▪ *laser* surgery ▪ *laser* technology

laser beam *noun, pl* **~ beams** [*count*] : the narrow beam of light produced by a laser

laser disc *noun, pl* **~ discs** [*count*] : OPTICAL DISK

laser printer *noun, pl* **~ -ers** [*count*] : a computer printer that prints an image formed by a laser beam — compare INK-JET PRINTER

[1]lash /ˈlæʃ/ *verb* **lash•es**; **lashed**; **lash•ing**

1 : to hit (a person or animal) with a whip, stick, or something similar [+ *obj*] The sailor was *lashed* for disobeying the captain. [*no obj*] — + *at* ▪ The jockey *lashed* (away) *at* the horse with his whip.

2 : to hit (something) with force [+ *obj*] Rain *lashed* the side of the house. ▪ Waves *lashed* the shore. [*no obj*] — + *at* ▪ Waves *lashed at* the shore.

3 : to make a sudden and angry attack against (someone) [+ *obj*] The singer *lashed* her critics with angry words. [*no obj*] — + *at* ▪ The singer *lashed* back *at* her critics. — often used in the phrase ***lash out at*** ▪ He *lashed out at* the government for its failure to cut taxes. ▪ The cat suddenly *lashed out at* me when I tried to pet it.

4 [+ *obj*] : to cause (a group of people) to become angry or violent — + *into* ▪ He *lashed* [=*whipped*] the mob *into* a fury with his violent words.

5 *of an animal* : to move (the tail) from side to side in a forceful way [+ *obj*] The tiger *lashed* its tail. [*no obj*] The tiger's tail was *lashing* from side to side.

– compare [3]LASH

[2]lash *noun, pl* **lashes**

1 a [*count*] : a hit with a whip ▪ They gave the sailor 50 *lashes* for disobeying orders. **b** ***the lash*** : the punishment of being hit with a whip ▪ The disobedient sailors were threatened with *the lash*. **c** [*count*] : the thin piece on the end of a whip **2** [*count*] : EYELASH — usually plural ▪ She has long and beautiful *lashes*.

[3]lash *verb* **lashes**; **lashed**; **lashing** [+ *obj*] : to tie (something) to an object with a rope, cord, or chain ▪ They *lashed* the canoe to the top of the car. ▪ He *lashed* the logs together to make a raft. ▪ Everything was *lashed* down securely so that it wouldn't blow away. — compare [1]LASH

lash•ing /ˈlæʃɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-ings**

1 [*singular*] : the act of hitting someone with a whip as a form of punishment ▪ They gave the sailor a *lashing*. — often used figuratively ▪ She gave him a *lashing* for being late. [=she shouted at him angrily for being late] — see also TONGUE-LASHING

2 *lashings* [*plural*] : ropes used for tying, wrapping, or connecting things ▪ a ship's *lashings*

3 *lashings* [*plural*] *Brit, informal* : a large amount of something ▪ She put *lashings of* butter on her muffin.

lass /ˈlæs/ *noun, pl* **lass•es** [*count*] *chiefly Brit, informal* : a girl or young woman ▪ a pretty Scottish *lass* — compare LAD

lass•ie /ˈlæsi/ *noun, pl* **-ies** [*count*] *chiefly Scotland, informal* : a young girl : LASS ▪ when she was just a wee *lassie* ▪ Don't cry, *lassie*. — compare LADDIE

las•si•tude /ˈlæsəˌtu:d, *Brit* ˈlæsəˌtju:d/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal + medical* : the condition of being tired : lack of physical or mental energy ▪ Symptoms of the disease include paleness and *lassitude*.

[1]las•so /ˈlæsoʊ, læˈsu:/ *noun, pl* **-sos** *or* **-soes** [*count*] : a rope with a loop that is used for catching animals (such as cattle or horses)

[2]lasso *verb* **-so** *or* **-soes**; **-soed**; **-so•ing** [+ *obj*] : to catch (an animal) with a lasso ▪ The cowboy *lassoed* the horse. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ an actor who has *lassoed* a major role [=an actor who has succeeded in getting a major role]

L

[1]last /ˈlæst, *Brit* ˈlɑ:st/ *verb* **lasts**; **last•ed**; **last•ing**

1 a [*no obj*] : to continue in time ▪ How long does the movie *last*? ▪ The movie *lasts* (for) about two hours. [=the movie is about two hours long] ▪ The conference starts on Monday and it *lasts* until Friday. ▪ The game *lasted* (for) three hours. ▪ Don't worry, the storm won't/can't *last*. [=the storm will end soon] **b** [*no obj*] : to continue in good condition ▪ The car should *last* 10 years. ▪ I doubt that those boots will *last* (much longer). ▪ That bridge will *last* a long time. ▪ Our products are ***built to last*** **c** [*no obj*] : to continue to be available ▪ These oranges are on sale while they/supplies *last*. [=they are on sale until they have all been sold] **d** : to continue to be enough for the needs of someone [*no obj*] We have enough food to *last* (for) the rest of the week. [+ *obj*] We have enough food to *last* us (for) the rest of the week. ▪ That car should *last* you ten years. [=you should not have to get another car for ten years]

2 [*no obj*] **a** : to be able to continue in a particular situation or condition ▪ I am not sure he will *last* in his new job. ▪ Can you *last* a whole day without cigarettes? **b** : to continue to live ▪ My father is very ill. He may not *last* much longer. ▪ He may not *last* (through) the night. [=he may die before the night has ended] ▪ (*chiefly Brit*) He may not ***last out*** the night.

last the distance see [1]DISTANCE

[2]last *adj*

1 a : coming after all others in time, order, or importance : FINAL ▪ He was the *last* one out of the building. ▪ She succeeded on her *last* attempt. ▪ These are the *last* two books in the series. ▪ He was sitting in the *last* [=*back*] row. ▪ We are going to the beach for the *last* week of the summer. ▪ The (very) *last* time we ever met was at a party. = (*Brit*) The *last* ever time we met was at a party. ▪ I'll have my revenge ***if it's the last thing I (ever) did*** [=I am determined to get my revenge] **b** : remaining after the rest are gone ▪ I am down to my *last* dollar. [=I have one dollar left] ▪ the *last* cookie in the jar ▪ She said she wouldn't marry him if he was the *last* man on earth.

2 : belonging to the final part of something ▪ He was tragically killed during the *last* days of the war. ▪ the *last* hours of her life = her *last* hours on earth

3 : most recent ▪ I haven't seen her recently. The *last* time we met was at a party. ▪ I liked her *last* [=*previous*] novel better than this new one. — used to identify a preceding period of time ▪ *Last* month we went to the museum. ▪ The weather was fine *last* week, but this week has been rainy, and next week is expected to be cold. ▪ He had trouble *last* semester in school. ▪ We saw them *last* week.

4 a : least likely ▪ You are the *last* person I would expect to see here. [=I never expected to see you here] ▪ That is the *last* place I would have looked for the ring. [=I would never have expected to find the ring there] **b** : least desirable ▪ Another bill to pay is the *last* thing I need right now! **c** : least important ▪ Right now work is the ***last thing on my mind***. [=I am not thinking about work at all right now]

every last — used as a more forceful way of saying *every* ▪ *Every last* soldier was captured. [=every soldier was captured] ▪ He ate *every last* cookie. [=he ate every cookie]

in the last analysis see ANALYSIS

last gasp : a final attempt or effort made at the very end ▪ This movie may be his *last gasp* as an actor. ▪ winter's *last gasp* [=the last bit of winter weather before spring] — see also LAST-GASP

last thing : after everything else ▪ Heat the vegetables *last thing* so that they don't get cold. : very late ▪ I'll be back *last thing* (on) Monday night.

on your/its last legs see [1]LEG

the last laugh see [2]LAUGH

the last moment see MOMENT

the last straw see STRAW

the last word see [1]WORD

to the last man see [1]MAN

[3]last *adv*

1 : after any others in time, order, or importance ▪ He spoke *last* at the meeting. ▪ My horse was/finished *last* in the race. ▪ My horse came in *last*. = (*chiefly Brit*) My horse came *last*. ▪ *Last* (of all) came the soldiers and tanks. ▪ She was first to arrive at the party and *last* to leave. : at the end ▪ The best part of the book ***comes last*** [=the best part of the book comes at the end] ✧ In figurative use, something or someone that *comes last* is less important than other things or people. ▪ His job was all he really cared about. His personal life always *came last* with him.

2 : most recently : on the most recent occasion ▪ I *last* saw him in the supermarket. ▪ They *last* went to the beach in June. ▪ This word was *last* used in the 17th century.

3 — used to introduce a final statement or subject ▪ *Last*, I'd like to talk about the company's future.

first and last see [2]FIRST

last but not least — used to say that a final statement is not less important than previous statements ▪ The television is big, has an excellent picture, and *last but not least*, it's cheap. ▪ *Last but not least*, I would like to introduce our new vice president.

[4]last *pronoun*

1 *the last* : the last person or thing in a group or series ▪ He was *the last* in line. ▪ It was *the last* of many delays. ▪ She was *the last* to leave. ▪ *The last* of the tests was given today. ▪ This is the first time we've been here, but it definitely won't be *the last*! [=we will definitely come here again]

2 a *the last* : the last time someone is seen, something is mentioned, etc. ▪ I guess that is *the last* we will see of her. [=the last time we will see her] ▪ I hope that we have finally ***seen the last*** of them. [=I hope that we will not see them again] ▪ He knew he had not ***heard the last*** of his mistake. [=he knew that he would hear again about his mistake] ▪ Don't tell them about your mistake or you'll never ***hear the last of it*** [=they'll keep reminding you of it] **b** : a final action ▪ I've spoken my *last* on this subject. [=I've spoken for the last time on this subject; I will not be saying anything more on this subject] **c** *informal* — used to describe the most recent information you have about someone or something ▪ "Where's Hank these days?" "***(The) Last I heard***, he was living in New York." [=the most recent information I have heard is that he was living in New York] ▪ "Do you know where my keys are?" "***(The) Last I saw***[=the last time I saw them], they were in the kitchen."

3 *the last* **a** : the end of something ▪ We stayed at the game till/until *the last*. [=until it ended] ▪ They fought hard to *the last*. **b** : the end of someone's life ▪ He was cheerful to *the last*. [=until he died]

4 a : the final thing or things that have been mentioned previously ▪ They had cats, dogs, and a horse. This *last* [=the horse] was kept in an old barn. **b** : the most recent one of something ▪ The week before *last* [=the week before last week] I saw him at a restaurant. ▪ the night before *last*

breathe your last *literary* : to die ▪ This is the room where

he *breathed his last*. [=where he breathed his last breath; where he died]

[5]last *noun*

at last* or *at long last : after a delay or long period of time ▪ She was *at last* [=*finally*] reunited with her sister. ▪ We're finished *at last*. ▪ "We're finished." "*At last*!" ▪ It appears that this problem will soon be solved, *at long last*.

last call *noun* [*noncount*] *US* : the time when the customers in a place where drinks are sold (such as a bar) are told that they can order one more drink before it closes ▪ We stayed till *last call*. — called also (*Brit*) *last orders*

last–ditch /ˈlæstˈdɪʧ, *Brit* ˈlɑːstˈdɪʧ/ *adj, always used before a noun* : made as a final effort to keep something bad from happening ▪ The troops made a desperate *last-ditch* effort to keep the town from being captured. ▪ The negotiations were a *last-ditch* attempt to prevent a labor strike.

last–gasp /ˈlæstˈgæsp, *Brit* ˈlɑːstˈgɑːsp/ *adj, always used before a noun* : done or happening at the very end ▪ The store changed its name in a *last-gasp* [=*last-ditch*] effort to attract customers. ▪ (*chiefly Brit*) a *last-gasp* goal [=a goal scored at the very end of a game] — see also *last gasp* at [2]LAST

last hurrah *noun, pl* ~ **-rahs** [*count*] : a last effort, production, or appearance ▪ The movie was his *last hurrah*. [=it was the last movie that he appeared in]

last•ing /ˈlæstɪŋ, *Brit* ˈlɑːstɪŋ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : existing or continuing for a long time ▪ a book with *lasting* significance ▪ The trip had a *lasting* effect on her.

– **last•ing•ly** *adv*

Last Judgment *noun*

the Last Judgment : the time when according to some religions all people will be judged by God : JUDGMENT DAY

last•ly /ˈlæstli, *Brit* ˈlɑːstli/ *adv* : at the end ▪ He worked for the company as a manager, treasurer, vice president, and *lastly*, as president. — used to introduce the last things you are going to say ▪ *Lastly*, I would like to discuss the company's future plans. — compare FIRSTLY

last minute *noun*

the last minute : the last possible time when something can be done ▪ You shouldn't wait until *the last minute* before planning your retirement. ▪ They were making changes to the show right up to *the last minute*.

– **last–minute** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ *last-minute* changes to the show ▪ They won the game with a *last-minute* touchdown.

last name *noun, pl* ~ **names** [*count*] : the name that comes at the end of someone's full name ▪ His first name is John and his *last name* is Smith. — compare SURNAME

last orders *noun* [*plural*] *Brit* : LAST CALL

last post *noun*

the last post *Brit* : TAPS

last rites *noun*

the last rites : a religious ceremony that is performed by a Catholic priest for someone who is dying ▪ The priest administered *the last rites*.

[1]latch /ˈlæʧ/ *noun, pl* **latch•es** [*count*]

1 : a device that holds a door, gate, or window closed and that consists of a bar that falls into a holder when it is closed and that is lifted when it is open ▪ He lifted the *latch* and opened the gate.

2 *chiefly Brit* : a type of door lock that can be opened from the inside by turning a lever or knob but can only be opened from the outside with a key ▪ I heard her key turn/click in the *latch*.

on the latch *Brit, of a door* : closed but not locked ▪ I left the front door *on the latch* so that she could get in.

[2]latch *verb* **latches**; **latched**; **latch•ing** [+ *obj*] : to close or fasten (something, such as a door) with a latch ▪ *latch* the gate — compare [3]LATCH

[3]latch *verb* **latches**; **latched**; **latching**

latch on [*phrasal verb*] *informal* **1** *Brit* : to begin to understand something ▪ What he was saying was complicated, so it took me a while to *latch on*. [=*catch on*] **2** ***latch on to (something)* or *latch onto (something)*** **a** : to grab and hold (something) ▪ He *latched onto* her arm and wouldn't let go. — often used figuratively ▪ The news media has *latched on to* the scandal. **b** : to begin using or doing (something) in an enthusiastic way ▪ Many companies have *latched onto* [=*adopted*] the trend of using consultants. : to choose (something) in an enthusiastic way ▪ He *latched onto* music as a way to relax. **3** ***latch on to (someone or something)* or *latch onto (someone or something)*** : to stay close to (someone or something) ▪ Soon after she got to the party, some strange man *latched on to* her [=started talking to her] and wouldn't go away.

– compare [2]LATCH

latch•key /ˈlæʧˌkiː/ *noun, pl* **-keys** [*count*] : a key for opening an outside door

latchkey child *noun, pl* ~ **children** [*count*] : a young child who is alone at home after school because the child's parents are working — called also *latchkey kid*

[1]late /ˈleɪt/ *adj* **lat•er**; **-est**

1 : existing or happening near the end of a period of time ▪ It happened in *late* spring. ▪ His health problems began when he was in his *late* thirties. [=when he was about 38 or 39 years old] ▪ The problems began in the *late* 1930s. [=in about 1938 or 1939] ▪ a word first recorded in the *late* 17th century ▪ It was *late* (in the evening) when we finally went to bed. — opposite EARLY; see also LATER

2 a : coming or happening after the usual, expected, or desired time ▪ The train is (a half hour) *late*. ▪ We had a *late* spring this year. ▪ I'm sorry I'm *late*. ▪ He made a *late* payment. = He was *late* with his payment. = He was *late* (in) paying. ▪ Hurry up or we'll be *late* for school. ▪ We arrived late because we ***got/had/made a late start***. [=we started at a later time than we had meant to] ▪ Their warning was ***too late*** to help him. — opposite EARLY **b** : doing something after the usual time or before others usually do ▪ I've always been a *late* riser. ▪ a *late* walker [=a child who learned to walk at a later age than most other children] — opposite EARLY

3 *always used before a noun* : living until recently : not now living ▪ He made a donation to the school in memory of his *late* wife. ▪ the *late* John Smith

born too late see BORN

it's getting late — used to say that time is passing and especially that evening or late evening is coming ▪ *It's getting late* so we should probably go home.

late bloomer see BLOOMER

late in the day : after the expected or proper time ▪ It's rather *late in the day* for an apology now, don't you think? [=it's late for an apology; you should have apologized sooner]

late night : a night when you stay awake until a late hour ▪ We're tired today because we ***had a late night*** [=stayed up late] last night. — see also LATE-NIGHT

– **late•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *lateness* of the hour ▪ the *lateness* of the payment

[2]late *adv* **later**; **-est**

1 : at or near the end of a period of time or a process, activity, series, etc. ▪ *Late* in the year he became ill. ▪ It rained *late* in the day. ▪ *Late* in his career he moved to the city. ▪ a word first recorded *late* in the 17th century ▪ They were trailing by a touchdown *late* in the fourth quarter. ▪ The package should be arriving *late* next week. — opposite EARLY

2 : after the usual or expected time ▪ She arrived at work (a half hour) *late*. ▪ He sent in his job application *late*. ▪ They arrived too *late* for breakfast. ▪ I like getting up *late*. ▪ The package arrived *late*, but ***better late than never***! ▪ She's been working *late*. ▪ They stayed *late*. — opposite EARLY

as late as : as recently as — used in referring to a time that you think is surprisingly recent ▪ The company is now in serious trouble, but it was reporting record profits *as late as* last year.

late of *formal* : having recently lived or worked in (a place, a company, etc.) ▪ The company's new president is Mark Jones, *late of* Chicago.

of late *formal* : during a recent period ▪ They have not seen him *of late*. [=*lately, recently*] ▪ *Of late* she has been acting strangely.

late•com•er /ˈleɪtˌkʌmɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

1 : a person who arrives late ▪ *Latecomers* had to park their cars far from the stadium.

2 : someone or something that has recently arrived or become involved in something : NEWCOMER — often + *to* ▪ He's a *latecomer to* the trumpet. [=he started playing the trumpet recently] ▪ The company is a *latecomer to* the video-game industry.

late•ly /ˈleɪtli/ *adv* : in the recent period of time : RECENTLY ▪ He has been feeling better *lately*. ▪ *Lately*, she has been worrying about her son.

late–night *adj, always used before a noun* : happening or appearing late at night ▪ *late-night* television ▪ *late-night* comedians

la•tent /ˈleɪtn̩t/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] — used to describe something (such as a disease) that exists but is not active or

cannot be seen ▪ a *latent* infection ▪ The house they bought had *latent* defects.

– **la•ten•cy** /'leɪtn̩si/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ The disease was in a period of *latency*. [=the disease was present but had not produced any noticeable symptoms] ▪ the *latency* period of a disease

[1]lat•er /'leɪtɚ/ *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : happening near the end of a process, activity, series, life, etc. ▪ among the composer's *later* works ▪ The early sections of the book are quite different from the *later* sections. ▪ His *later* years were tranquil.

2 : coming or happening after a certain time or at a future time ▪ They met again on a *later* occasion.

[2]later *adv* : at a time in the future ▪ I'll talk to you again *later*. : at a time following an earlier time ▪ They *later* regretted the decision. ▪ She returned several weeks *later*. ▪ I saw him again *later* that morning. ▪ We'll need to know your decision ***no/not later than*** next week. [=we'll need to know your decision by next week] ✧ In informal spoken English, *later* is used especially by young people as a shortened form of the phrase (***I'll***) ***see you later*** to say goodbye to someone. ▪ *Later*, dudes!

later on : at a time in the future or following an earlier time ▪ We'll talk about this subject some more *later on*. ▪ They regretted their decision *later on*.

sooner or later see SOON

[1]lat•er•al /'lætərəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : toward, on, or coming from the side ▪ a *lateral* view of the human body [=a view from the side] ▪ the *lateral* force of an earthquake

– **lat•er•al•ly** *adv* ▪ moved the eyeball *laterally* [=toward the side]

[2]lateral *noun, pl* **-als** [*count*] *American football* : a pass thrown to the side or backward — called also *lateral pass*

lateral thinking *noun* [*noncount*] *chiefly Brit* : a method for solving problems by making unusual or unexpected connections between ideas

– **lateral thinker** *noun, pl ~* **-ers** [*count*]

[1]lat•est /'leɪtəst/ *adj, always used before a noun* : most recent ▪ She's interested in all the *latest* fashions. ▪ Have you heard the *latest* news (about it)? ▪ He is the *latest* person to announce his resignation.

[2]latest *noun* [*count*] : the last possible or acceptable time — usually used in the phrase ***at the latest*** ▪ The job will definitely be finished by next year *at the* (very) *latest*.

the latest *informal* **1** : the most recent news or information about something ▪ Have you heard *the latest*? **2** : the most recent or modern version of something — + *in* ▪ The store carries *the latest in* home improvement products.

la•tex /'leɪˌtɛks/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a white fluid produced by certain plants that is used for making rubber; *also* : a similar material that is used for making various products (such as paint and glue) — often used before another noun ▪ *latex* paint ▪ *latex* gloves

lath /'læθ, *Brit* 'lɑːθ/ *noun, pl* **laths** [*count*] : a long and thin piece of wood that is used in walls and ceilings to support plaster, tiles, etc.

lathe /'leɪð/ *noun, pl* **lathes** [*count*] : a machine in which a piece of wood or metal is held and turned while being shaped by a sharp tool

[1]lath•er /'læðɚ, *Brit* 'lɑːðə/ *noun*

1 : tiny bubbles formed from soap mixed with water [*noncount*] The soap and water formed a lot of *lather*. [*singular*] The soap and water formed a *lather*.

2 [*singular*] *informal* : a very upset, angry, or worried condition ▪ Her parents were ***in a lather*** [=were very upset] when she came home late. ▪ He ***worked himself into a lather*** [=he became very upset] thinking of his former wife and her new boyfriend. ▪ Don't ***get in a lather*** [=get upset] about something so unimportant.

[2]lather *verb* **-ers; -ered; -er•ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to spread lather over (something) ▪ He *lathered* his face before shaving.

2 [*no obj*] : to form lather ▪ The soap *lathers* easily.

[1]Lat•in /'lætn̩/ *noun, pl* **-ins**

1 [*noncount*] : the language of ancient Rome

2 [*count*] : a person born or living in Latin America or in a country (such as Spain or Italy) where a language that comes from Latin is spoken

[2]Latin *adj*

1 : based on, relating to, or written in Latin ▪ *Latin* grammar ▪ *Latin* poetry

2 : of or relating to the people of Central America and South America ▪ *Latin* music

3 : of or relating to the people of European countries (such as Spain and Italy) in which languages that come from Latin are spoken ▪ a *Latin* lover

La•ti•na /lə'tiːnə/ *noun, pl* **-nas** [*count*] : a woman or girl who was born in or lives in South America, Central America, or Mexico or a woman or girl in the U.S. whose family is originally from South America, Central America, or Mexico — compare LATINO

– **Latina** *adj* ▪ a famous *Latina* singer

Latin–American *adj* : based in or relating to the American countries south of the U.S. where people speak Spanish and Portuguese ▪ a person of *Latin-American* origin ▪ *Latin-American* literature ▪ *Latin-American* leaders

La•ti•no /lə'tiːnoʊ/ *noun, pl* **-nos** [*count*] : a person who was born or lives in South America, Central America, or Mexico or a person in the U.S. whose family is originally from South America, Central America, or Mexico ✧ The singular form *Latino* usually refers to a man. The plural form *Latinos* often refers to men and women as a group. — compare LATINA

– **Latino** *adj* ▪ *Latino* children

lat•i•tude /'lætəˌtuːd, *Brit* 'lætəˌtjuːd/ *noun, pl* **-tudes**

1 a : distance north or south of the equator measured in degrees up to 90 degrees [*noncount*] a map of the world showing lines of *latitude* and longitude ▪ an island located at 40 degrees north *latitude* [=at a point 40 degrees north of the equator] [*count*] located at a *latitude* of 40 degrees north — compare LONGITUDE 1 **b** [*count*] : an imaginary line that circles the Earth at a particular latitude and that is parallel to the equator ▪ Madrid and New York City are on nearly the same *latitude*. ▪ islands located at different *latitudes* ▪ The star is only seen from the northern *latitudes*. [=the northern parts of the world] — compare LONGITUDE 2

2 [*noncount*] *somewhat formal* : freedom to choose how to act or what to do ▪ We weren't given much *latitude* in deciding how to do the job. ▪ The judge has wide/considerable *latitude* to reject evidence for the trial.

– **lat•i•tu•di•nal** /ˌlætəˈtuːdənəl, *Brit* ˌlætəˈtjuːdənəl/ *adj*

la•trine /lə'triːn/ *noun, pl* **-trines** [*count*] : an outdoor toilet that is usually a hole dug in the ground

lat•te /'lɑːˌteɪ, *Brit* 'læˌteɪ/ *noun, pl* **-tes** [*count*] : CAFFE LATTE

lat•ter /'lætɚ/ *adj, always used before a noun* : coming or happening near the end of a process, activity, series, life, etc. : LATER ▪ the *latter* stages of the process ▪ We'll go in the *latter* half of the year. ▪ In his *latter* years he became blind.

the latter **1** : the second one of two things or people that have been mentioned ▪ Of these two options, the former is less expensive, while *the latter* is less risky. ▪ He has cars and trucks, and even though the former are easier to drive, *the latter* are more useful. **2** : the last thing or person mentioned ▪ Of chicken, fish, and meat, I like *the latter* best. [=I like meat the best] : the thing or person that has just been mentioned ▪ The President—or, if *the latter* is too busy, the Vice President—will see you shortly. — compare *the former* at FORMER

lat•ter–day /'lætɚˌdeɪ/ *adj, always used before a noun* : regarded as a modern version of someone or something from the past ▪ He seems to think he's some sort of *latter-day* Moses who will lead us out of bondage.

lat•ter•ly /'lætɚli/ *adv, chiefly Brit, formal*

1 : at a later time ▪ He devoted his time to painting, sculpture, and, *latterly*, to gardening.

2 : during a recent period ▪ His business has grown *latterly*. [=*lately*]

lat•tice /'lætəs/ *noun, pl* **-tic•es** [*count*] : a frame or structure made of crossed wood or metal strips

– **lat•ticed** /'lætəst/ *adj* ▪ a *latticed* door

lat•tice•work /'lætəsˌwɚk/ *noun, pl* **-works** : a frame or structure made of crossed wood or metal strips [*noncount*] the intricate *latticework* of the fence [*count*] intricate *latticeworks* — sometimes used figuratively ▪ gazing up at the sky through a *latticework* of branches

laud /'lɑːd/ *verb* **lauds; laud•ed; laud•ing** [+ *obj*] *somewhat formal* : to praise (someone or something) ▪ Many people *lauded* her efforts to help the poor. = Many people *lauded* her for her efforts to help the poor. ▪ He was much *lauded* as a successful businessman.

laud•able /'lɑːdəbəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *somewhat formal* : deserving praise ▪ She has shown a *laudable* [=*praiseworthy, commendable*] devotion to her children. ▪ Improving the schools is a *laudable* goal.

– **laud•ably** /'lɑːdəbli/ *adv*

lau·da·to·ry /ˈlɑːdəˌtori, *Brit* ˈlɔːdətri/ *adj, formal* : expressing or containing praise • a *laudatory* biography • The play received mostly *laudatory* reviews.

[1]laugh /ˈlæf, *Brit* ˈlɑːf/ *verb* **laughs; laughed; laugh·ing**

1 [*no obj*] : to show that you are happy or that you think something is funny by smiling and making a sound from your throat • What are you *laughing* about? • The audience was *laughing* hysterically. • I've never *laughed* so hard in my life. • I couldn't stop *laughing* when I saw what he was wearing. • I ***laughed out loud*** when I saw him. • I ***burst out laughing*** [=I suddenly started laughing] • He *laughed* so hard I thought he'd ***die laughing***. • The movie was hilarious. We ***laughed our heads off***. • I ***laughed until I cried*** [=I laughed so much that tears came out of my eyes] • (*Brit*) She was ***laughing like a drain*** [=she was laughing very hard] • I ***didn't know whether to laugh or cry*** [=I was surprised and shocked] when she told me she was getting married. • It's ***no laughing matter*** when you lose your job. [=it's a serious and important thing that people should not joke about] — often + *at* • She *laughed at* the joke. • Why is everyone *laughing at* me?

2 [*no obj*] **a** : to think or say that someone or something is foolish and does not deserve serious attention or respect — usually + *at* • People *laughed at* his predictions of disaster, but no one's *laughing* now. **b** : to not be bothered by something — + *at* • Sitting inside their tent, they were able to *laugh at* the weather. • He *laughed at* danger.

3 [+ *obj*] : to say (something) in an amused way • "I've never seen anything so ridiculous," he *laughed*.

4 [+ *obj*] : to cause (someone) to go, move, etc., by laughing • The audience *laughed* the singer off the stage. • They *laughed* him out of town. • He *laughed* himself sick. [=he made himself sick by laughing too much] ✧ Someone or something that is ***laughed out of court*** or (*US*) ***laughed out of town*** is regarded as very foolish and is not accepted or treated in a serious way. • His theories were *laughed out of court*.

be laughing *Brit, informal* : to be in a very good situation with nothing to worry about • If they can just close this important deal, they'll *be laughing*! [=they'll be on easy street]

don't make me laugh *informal* — used as a response to a statement that you think is very wrong or foolish • "I could beat you at chess easily." "*Don't make me laugh*."

have to laugh ✧ If you say you *have to laugh* about something, you mean that it is amusing in a certain way, even if it is also unpleasant or foolish. • I *had to laugh* when I found out that our luggage had been lost. What else could go wrong?

he who laughs last, laughs best *or* ***he laughs best that laughs last*** — used to say that even if you are not successful now you still succeed or win in the end

laugh all the way to the bank : to make a lot of money especially by doing something that other people thought was foolish or amusing • People thought his invention was ridiculous, but now he's *laughing all the way to the bank*.

laughing hyena, laughing like a hyena see HYENA

laugh in someone's face : to laugh directly at someone in a way that shows disrespect • When I asked for his help he *laughed in my face*.

laugh off [*phrasal verb*] ***laugh (something) off*** *or* ***laugh off (something)*** : to laugh about or make jokes about (something) in order to make people think it is not serious or important • The candidate *laughed off* the question about his marriage. • The injury was serious, but he *laughed* it *off*.

laugh on the other side of your face — used to say that a situation will change and someone will stop being happy or pleased • You'll be *laughing on the other side of your face* when I've finished with you!

laugh up your sleeve : to be secretly happy about or amused by something (such as someone else's trouble) • The mayor's critics were *laughing up their sleeves* when news of the scandal was first reported.

– laugh·er /ˈlæfɚ, *Brit* ˈlɑːfə/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

[2]laugh *noun, pl* **laughs**

1 [*count*] : the act or sound of laughing • He gave a loud *laugh*. • a nervous *laugh* • I kept telling jokes, but I couldn't ***get a laugh*** [=make people laugh] • a joke that always ***gets a big laugh*** • He'll do anything ***for a laugh*** [=to make people laugh] • I thought her report was ***good for a laugh*** [=was amusing], but it didn't have much helpful information. • She's always ***good for a laugh*** [=she always makes people laugh; she is a funny person] • It seemed awful at the time, but we ***had a (good) laugh about it*** afterward. [=we laughed about it afterward]

2 *informal* **a** [*count*] : something that causes laughter : something funny or foolish • The movie has a lot of *laughs*. • You're going to be a movie star? That's a *laugh*. **b** [*singular*] *chiefly Brit* : a funny person • He's a real *laugh*.

a barrel of laughs see [1]BARREL

a laugh a minute *informal* : someone or something that is very funny • That guy is *a laugh a minute*. • The movie is *a laugh a minute*.

for laughs *or chiefly Brit* ***for a laugh*** *informal* : for amusement • The children were saying every word backward, just *for laughs*.

play for laughs see [1]PLAY

the last laugh ✧ If you ***have/get the last laugh***, you finally succeed or win after people laughed at or doubted you.

laugh·able /ˈlæfəbəl, *Brit* ˈlɑːfəbəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : bad in a way that seems foolish or silly • His attempt at skiing was *laughable*. • The movie shows a *laughable* [=*pathetic*] ignorance of history.

– laugh·ably /ˈlæfəbli, *Brit* ˈlɑːfəbli/ *adv* • a *laughably* small car

laughing gas *noun* [*noncount*] *informal* : NITROUS OXIDE

laugh·ing·ly /ˈlæfɪŋli, *Brit* ˈlɑːfɪŋli/ *adv* [*more ~; most ~*]

1 : with laughter : in an amused way • He *laughingly* recalled his friends in college.

2 : in a way that is a joke or that you think is silly, foolish, etc. • a painful and difficult time that some people now *laughingly* call "the good old days"

laugh·ing·stock /ˈlæfɪŋˌstɑːk, *Brit* ˈlɑːfɪŋˌstɒk/ *noun, pl* **-stocks** [*count*] : a person or thing that is regarded as very foolish or ridiculous • The team has become the *laughingstock* of the league. • The mayor became a *laughingstock*.

laugh lines *noun* [*plural*] *US* : wrinkles that appear next to the eyes and that are most noticeable when a person is smiling or laughing — called also (*Brit*) *laughter lines*

laugh·ter /ˈlæftɚ, *Brit* ˈlɑːftə/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the action or sound of laughing • *Laughter* filled the air. • peals/gales/shrieks of *laughter* • The audience roared/shrieked/howled with *laughter*. • The audience ***erupted in laughter***. = The audience ***burst into laughter***. [=the audience suddenly began laughing]

laugh track *noun, pl* **~ tracks** [*count*] : recorded laughter that is heard during a television or radio program

[1]launch /ˈlɑːntʃ/ *verb* **launch·es; launched; launch·ing** [+ *obj*]

1 a : to send or shoot (something, such as a rocket) into the air or water or into outer space • *launch* a rocket/missile/torpedo • *launch* a satellite **b** : to put (a boat or ship) on the water • *launch* a battleship/lifeboat **c** : to throw (something) forward in a forceful way • *launch* [=*hurl*] a spear • I was terrified when the ferocious animal suddenly ***launched itself*** at me. [=suddenly jumped at me]

2 a : to begin (something that requires much effort) • The enemy *launched* an attack at sunrise. • She's trying to *launch* a new career as a singer. • *launch* a business • *launch* an experiment • The police have *launched* an investigation into his activities. **b** : to cause (a person or group) to start to be successful in a career, business, etc. • He helped *launch* her in her career as a singer. **c** : to offer or sell (something) for the first time • The company is expected to *launch* several new products next year. • *launch* a Web site

3 *computers* : to cause (a program) to start operating • You can *launch* the program by double-clicking on the icon.

launch into [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***launch into (something)*** : to suddenly begin doing or saying (something) in an energetic way • He suddenly *launched into* a speech about taxes. **2** ***launch (yourself) into (something)*** : to become involved in (something) in an energetic way • She *launched herself* enthusiastically *into* the campaign.

launch out [*phrasal verb*] : to begin doing something that is new and very different from what you have been doing • It's time to *launch out* and expand my horizons. • He left the company and *launched out* on his own.

– launch·er *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] • a rocket *launcher*

[2]launch *noun, pl* **launches** [*count*] : an act of launching something: such as **a** : an act of shooting something (such as a rocket or missile) into the air or into outer space • a rocket *launch* **b** : an act of beginning a major activity • the *launch* of an attack • the *launch* of a new business **c** : an act or occasion when something new (such as a new product) is first offered or announced • the *launch* of a Web site • a party to celebrate the *launch* of a new product/book = a ***launch party*** for a new product/book — compare [3]LAUNCH

[3]launch *noun, pl* **launches** [*count*] : a boat that carries pas-

sengers to the shore from a larger boat that is in a harbor — compare ²LAUNCH

launch•pad /ˈlɑːntʃˌpæd/ *noun, pl* **-pads** [*count*] : an area from which a rocket is launched — often used figuratively ▪ The program she hosted on local radio was the *launchpad* for her network career. [=it was the first step that led to her network career] — called also *launching pad*

laun•der /ˈlɑːndɚ/ *verb* **-ders**; **-dered**; **-der•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to make (clothes, towels, sheets, etc.) ready for use by washing, drying, and ironing them ▪ a freshly *laundered* shirt
2 : to put (money that you got by doing something illegal) into a business or bank account in order to hide where it really came from ▪ He used a phony business to *launder* money from drug dealing.
– **laun•der•er** /ˈlɑːndɚɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ a money *launderer* – **laundering** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ He has been accused of ***money laundering***.

laun•der•ette /ˌlɑːndəˈrɛt/ *noun, pl* **-ettes** [*count*] *chiefly Brit* : a place that has machines to use for washing and drying clothes, towels, sheets, etc.

Laun•dro•mat /ˈlɑːndrəˌmæt/ *service mark* — used for a place that has machines for washing and drying clothes, towels, sheets, etc.

laun•dry /ˈlɑːndri/ *noun, pl* **-dries**
1 [*noncount*] : clothes, towels, sheets, etc., that need to be washed or that have been washed ▪ There's a pile of dirty *laundry* in the *laundry* basket. ▪ clean *laundry* ▪ a *laundry* bag ▪ I have to ***do the laundry*** today. [=to wash the dirty clothes, towels, etc.] — see also DIRTY LAUNDRY
2 [*count*] : a business or place where clothes, towels, sheets, etc., are washed and dried ▪ work at/in a *laundry* ▪ The patients' sheets are sent regularly to the hospital *laundry*.

laundry list *noun, pl* ~ **lists** [*count*] *informal* : a long list of related things ▪ She described a *laundry list* of goals for the city's schools. ▪ He recited a *laundry list* of problems.

lau•re•ate /ˈlorijət/ *noun, pl* **-ates** [*count*]
1 : someone who has won an important prize or honor for achievement in an art or science ▪ a Nobel *laureate*
2 : POET LAUREATE

lau•rel /ˈlorəl/ *noun, pl* **-rels**
1 [*count, noncount*] : an evergreen tree or bush with shiny pointed leaves ▪ *laurel* leaves ▪ wearing a crown/wreath of *laurel* [=a crown/wreath made from laurel leaves that was awarded and worn around the head as a symbol of honor in ancient Greece]
2 ***laurels*** [*plural*] : honor or fame given for some achievement ▪ They enjoyed the *laurels* of their military victory. ▪ The player earned his *laurels* from years of hard work.
look to your laurels *chiefly Brit* : to work in order to keep your success or position ▪ If she performs this well in the championships, her rivals will have to *look to their laurels*.
rest/sit on your laurels : to be satisfied with past success and do nothing to achieve further success ▪ Although she won the championship, she isn't *resting on her laurels*. She is training hard to become even better next year.

la•va /ˈlɑːvə/ *noun* [*noncount*] : melted rock from a volcano ▪ a flow of molten *lava*

lav•a•to•ry /ˈlævəˌtori, *Brit* ˈlævətri/ *noun, pl* **-ries** [*count*]
1 *formal* : a room with a toilet and sink ✧ In U.S. English, *lavatory* is most often used for a room in an airplane. ▪ Smoking is not permitted in the airplane's *lavatory*. It may also be used for a room in other kinds of public places. ▪ the school's *lavatories* [=(more commonly) *restrooms*] In British English, *lavatory* is most often used for a room in a public place but may also be used for a room in a home.
2 *Brit* : TOILET 1
3 *US, technical* : a bathroom sink ▪ a wide choice of *lavatories* on sale at plumbing supply stores

lavatory paper *noun* [*noncount*] *Brit* : TOILET PAPER

lav•en•der /ˈlævəndɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ders**
1 a [*count, noncount*] : a plant with narrow leaves and small purple flowers that have a sweet smell **b** [*noncount*] : the dried leaves and flowers of the lavender plant used to make clothes and fabrics smell pleasant ▪ a small cloth bag filled with *lavender*
2 [*count, noncount*] : a pale purple color — see color picture on page C3

¹lav•ish /ˈlævɪʃ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : giving or using a large amount of something ▪ *lavish* donors ▪ a cook who is known for her *lavish* use of spices [=a cook who uses a large amount of spices] ▪ a *lavish* display of flowers — often + *in* or *with* ▪ She is *lavish in* giving praise to her employees. [=she gives a lot of praise to her employees] ▪ a cook who is *lavish with* spices
2 : given in large amounts ▪ She has drawn/gained *lavish* praise [=a great amount of praise] for her charitable works. ▪ a *lavish* donation
3 : having a very rich and expensive quality ▪ a *lavish* home ▪ a *lavish* feast/party
– **lav•ish•ly** *adv* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ a *lavishly* generous donor ▪ a *lavishly* [=*richly*] illustrated book – **lav•ish•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

²lavish *verb* **-ish•es**; **-ished**; **-ish•ing**
lavish on/upon [*phrasal verb*] ***lavish (something) on/upon (someone)*** : to give a large amount of (something) to (someone) ▪ They *lavished* gifts *on* us. [=they gave us many gifts] ▪ They *lavished* attention *on* their children.
lavish with [*phrasal verb*] ***lavish (someone or something) with (something)*** : to give (someone or something) a large amount of (something) ▪ They *lavished* us *with* gifts. ▪ Everyone *lavished* the children *with* attention. ▪ The production was *lavished with* praise by the critics.

law /ˈlɑː/ *noun, pl* **laws**
1 [*noncount*] **a** : the whole system or set of rules made by the government of a town, state, country, etc. ▪ People who are supposed to obey the *law* also need to know their rights under the *law*. [=according to the law] ▪ The courts exist to uphold, interpret, and apply the *law*. ▪ state/federal *law* ▪ Stealing is ***against the law***. [=stealing is illegal] ▪ He denied that he had ***broken/violated the law***. [=that he had done anything illegal] ▪ You have to pay taxes. That's ***the law of the land***. [=the set of rules that exists in a certain place] ▪ The job of the police is to ***enforce the law***. [=make sure that people obey the law] ▪ He's interested in a career in ***law enforcement***. [=a career as a police officer] ▪ (*US*) *Law enforcement* officials [=police officials] in the area were alerted of the suspect's escape. — see also MARTIAL LAW **b** : a particular kind of law ▪ a lawyer who specializes in criminal/contract/immigration *law* — see also COMMON LAW
2 : a rule made by the government of a town, state, country, etc. [*count*] A *law* requires that schools provide a safe learning environment. = There is a *law* requiring schools to provide a safe learning environment. ▪ In our civics class we learned how a bill becomes a *law*. ▪ She has proposed a new *law* to protect people from being evicted unfairly. — often + *on* or *against* ▪ Congress passed several new *laws on* the environment. [=laws relating to the environment] ▪ a *law against* unfair eviction [=a law that makes unfair eviction illegal] ▪ We need stricter *laws against* discrimination. [*noncount*] Schools are required ***by law*** to provide a safe learning environment. ▪ The bill will ***become law*** at the beginning of the year. ▪ With the majority voting in favor, the bill has been ***passed into law***. [=the bill became a law] ▪ The bill was ***signed into law*** by the governor. [=the proposed law became officially active when the governor signed it]
3 ***the law*** : the people and organizations (such as the police and the courts) whose job is to find or punish people who do not obey laws ▪ They called in *the law* [=the police] to determine what should be done next. ▪ He's been in and out of trouble with *the law* for the last 10 years.
4 [*noncount*] **a** : the job of a lawyer : the legal profession ▪ She's been thinking about going into *law*. [=thinking about becoming a lawyer] ▪ a career in *law* ▪ The company hired a large ***law firm*** [=a group of lawyers who work together as a business] to handle the case. ▪ She ***practices law*** [=she works as a lawyer] with a firm in Boston. — see also ATTORNEY AT LAW **b** : the area of study that relates to laws and how they are used ▪ a professor of *law* ▪ studying *law* ▪ going to ***law school*** [=a school that trains you to become a lawyer]
5 : a religious rule [*count*] the body of Islamic *laws* [*noncount*] according to Jewish *law*
6 [*count*] **a** : a rule stating that something (such as an art or profession) should be done in a certain way ▪ the *laws* of poetry ▪ He teaches his students that balance is the ***first law of*** architecture. [=balance is the most important principle in architecture] **b** *Brit* : a rule in a sport or game ▪ the *laws* [=*rules*] of tennis
7 [*count*] : a statement that describes how something works in the natural world — often + *of* ▪ the *law of* gravity ▪ the *laws of* nature/physics ▪ Newton's *laws of* motion
above the law : not required to obey the law ▪ No one is *above the law*. [=everyone must obey the law] ▪ He complains that the new policy places corporations *above the law*. [=that the new policy allows corporations to do things that are not legal]

a law unto yourself ✧ People who are or think they are *a law unto themselves* act in a way that shows they do not care what kind of behavior other people think is acceptable. ▪ I've warned him that he can't keep behaving this way, but he won't listen. He seems to think that he's *a law unto himself*. [=that he can do whatever he wants to do]

go to law *Brit* : to ask a court of law to settle a dispute

law and order : a state or situation in which people obey the law : legal control and authority ▪ The police work to preserve *law and order*. ▪ a breakdown of *law and order*

lay down the law see *lay down* at ¹LAY

outside the law **1** : not agreeing with the law ▪ actions that may have been *outside the law* [=*illegal*] **2** : in an illegal way ▪ Investigators were unable to prove that the business was operating *outside the law*. [=*illegally*]

take the law into your own hands : to try to punish someone for breaking a law even though you do not have the right to do that ▪ Police are concerned that the victim's family may try to *take the law into their own hands*. [=may try to punish the criminal themselves instead of allowing the legal system to do it]

the law of averages : the idea or principle that something which can produce different results will produce those results in a regular or predictable way over a period of time ▪ I can't believe that team has lost 12 games in a row. The *law of averages* says that they should have won at least one game by now.

the law of the jungle — used to describe a situation in which people do whatever they want to or whatever is necessary to survive or succeed ▪ an industry governed by *the law of the jungle*

the long arm of the law see ¹ARM

within the law **1** : agreeing with the law ▪ He says that everything he did was *within the law*. [=*legal*] **2** : in a legal way ▪ With the organization under so much scrutiny, it is even more important that they work/operate *within the law*. [=*legally*]

your word is law ✧ If *your word is law*, other people must do what you say ▪ He'll listen to suggestions, but in the end, *his word is law*.

synonyms LAW, RULE, REGULATION, STATUTE, and ORDINANCE are statements about what people are allowed to do. A LAW is made by a government, and people who live in the area controlled by that government must obey it. ▪ According to a state *law*, all drivers must pass a written test before they can be fully licensed. A RULE usually does not involve an official government. It typically describes what people are allowed to do in a game or in a particular place (such as a school). ▪ He explained the *rules* of football. ▪ The *rules* state clearly that smoking is prohibited on campus. A REGULATION is made by a government to protect people from being harmed. ▪ Safety *regulations* limit the number of hours an airline pilot can fly each month. STATUTE is a formal word for a law made by a government. ▪ The new *statute* requires that all passengers in a car wear seatbelts. In the U.S., an ORDINANCE is a law that is made by a local government and applies only to a limited area. ▪ The new city *ordinance* restricts parking on some streets.

law–abid•ing /ˈlɑːəˌbaɪdɪŋ/ *adj* : obeying the law : not doing anything that the law does not allow ▪ a *law-abiding* citizen

law•break•er /ˈlɑːˌbreɪkɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a person who does something that is not legal : a person who breaks the law ▪ He admitted to being a *lawbreaker*.
– **law•break•ing** /ˈlɑːˌbreɪkɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*]

law court *noun, pl* ~ **courts** [*count*]
1 *US* : a court of law : COURT 1c ▪ a decision handed down by a *law court*
2 : a building or room where legal decisions are made : COURT 1b ▪ I have to appear in *law court* next week.

law•ful /ˈlɑːfəl/ *adj, formal*
1 : allowed by the law ▪ *lawful* conduct ▪ a *lawful* search of the property — opposite UNLAWFUL
2 : according to the law ▪ They went to court to determine the property's *lawful* [=*rightful, legal*] owner.
– **law•ful•ly** /ˈlɑːfəli/ *adv* ▪ Companies cannot *lawfully* [=*legally*] sell private medical information. ▪ In the wedding ceremony he was asked, "Do you take this woman to be your *lawfully* wedded wife?" [=do you accept this woman as your wife according to the law?] – **law•ful•ness** /ˈlɑːfəlnəs/ *noun* [*noncount*]

law•less /ˈlɑːləs/ *adj*
1 : having no laws ▪ the *lawless* society of the frontier
2 : not obeying the law ▪ a *lawless* mob
– **law•less•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

law•mak•er /ˈlɑːˌmeɪkɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : someone who makes laws : LEGISLATOR
– **law•mak•ing** /ˈlɑːˌmeɪkɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the responsibilities of *lawmaking* — often used before another noun ▪ The legislature functions as the nation's *lawmaking* body.

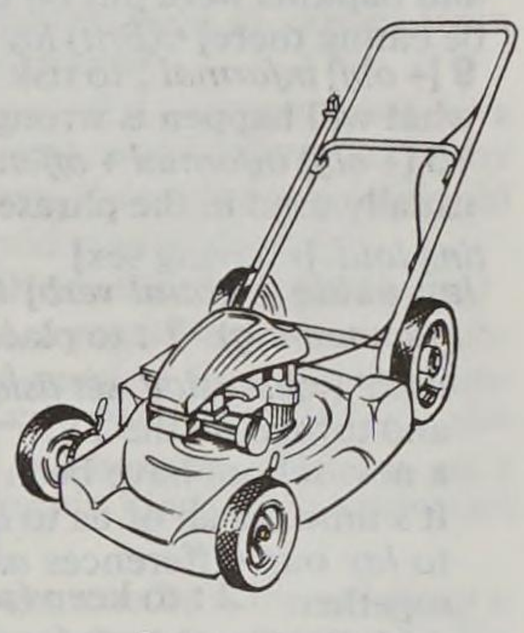
law•man /ˈlɑːmən/ *noun, pl* **-men** /-mən/ [*count*] *US* : someone (such as a sheriff or marshal) whose job is to make sure that people obey the law ▪ Wyatt Earp was a famous American *lawman* of the Wild West.

lawn /ˈlɑːn/ *noun, pl* **lawns** : an area of ground (such as the ground around a house or in a garden or park) that is covered with short grass [*count*] We had a picnic on the *lawn* in front of the monument. ▪ a neighborhood with well-kept *lawns* ▪ He planned to ***mow the lawn*** [=cut the grass on his lawn] early Saturday morning. ▪ (*US*) We're having a ***lawn party*** [=an outdoor party on a lawn] to celebrate our daughter's graduation. [*noncount*] several acres of well-kept *lawn* — see picture at HOUSE

lawn bowling *noun* [*noncount*] *US* : a game in which wooden balls are rolled across an area of grass so that they stop as close as possible to a smaller ball — called also (*Brit*) *bowls*

lawn chair *noun, pl* ~ **chairs** [*count*] *US* : a light chair made to be used outside — called also (*Brit*) *garden chair*

lawn mower *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] : a machine used for cutting the grass on lawns



lawn mower

lawn tennis *noun* [*noncount*] : TENNIS

law•suit /ˈlɑːˌsuːt/ *noun, pl* **-suits** [*count*] : a process by which a court of law makes a decision to end a disagreement between people or organizations ▪ win/lose a *lawsuit* ▪ a complex *lawsuit* [=*suit*] that may take years to resolve ▪ When the newspaper refused to admit that the story was false, the actor ***filed/initiated a lawsuit*** against the publisher. [=the actor sued the publisher] ▪ They agreed to pay $100,000 to ***settle a lawsuit***. [=to end a lawsuit before the court made a decision about it]

law•yer /ˈlɑːjɚ, ˈlojɚ/ *noun, pl* **-yers** [*count*] : a person whose job is to guide and assist people in matters relating to the law

lax /ˈlæks/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *disapproving* : not careful enough : not strict enough ▪ *lax* regulations/policies ▪ Security has been *lax*. ▪ The university has been *lax* about/in enforcing these rules.
– **lax•ity** /ˈlæksəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ He wrote an essay condemning the moral *laxity* in society. – **lax•ly** *adv* ▪ laws *laxly* enforced – **lax•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ their *laxness* [=*laxity*] in enforcing these rules

lax•a•tive /ˈlæksətɪv/ *noun, pl* **-tives** *medical* : a medicine or food that makes it easier for solid waste to pass through the body [*count*] The doctor prescribed a *laxative*. [*noncount*] a dose of *laxative*
– **laxative** *adj* ▪ The herb has a mild *laxative* effect.

¹lay /ˈleɪ/ *verb* **lays**; **laid** /ˈleɪd/; **lay•ing**
1 [+ *obj*] : to place (someone or something) down gently in a flat position ▪ *Lay* the fabric carefully on the table. ▪ He *laid* a gentle hand on her shoulder. ▪ She *laid* the baby in his crib for a nap. ▪ He says that he never ***laid a finger/hand on*** her. [=that he never touched her] — often + *down* ▪ He *laid* the newspaper *down* on the desk. ▪ She *laid* the baby down for his nap. — see also LAY DOWN (below)
2 [+ *obj*] **a** : to place (something) into position on or along a surface : to build or set (something) on or in the ground or another surface ▪ When will they *lay* the foundation for the addition? ▪ *lay* tracks for the new railroad ▪ *lay* pipe/cable/lines ▪ *laying* bricks — often + *down* ▪ *laying down* a new road/carpet — often used figuratively ▪ We are ***laying the groundwork/foundation*** [=providing conditions] for additional research. **b** *chiefly US* : to spread (something) over a surface ▪ *lay* plaster/paint ▪ *lay* wallpaper
3 [+ *obj*] : BURY 1a ▪ They *laid* him in his grave.

4 [*no obj*] *informal* : to be in a flat position on a surface : LIE • The book was *laying* on the table. ✧ The use of *lay* to mean "lie" occurs commonly in informal speech but it is regarded as an error by many people.

5 [+ *obj*] **a** : to beat or strike (something) down with force • The wheat was ***laid flat*** by the wind and rain. **b** : to change the condition of something in a specified way • The mountainside has been ***laid bare*** by loggers. [=all the trees on the mountainside have been cut down by loggers] • He *laid bare* his soul. = He *laid* his soul *bare*. [=he revealed his most private thoughts and feelings] • He ***laid himself open*** to criticism [=he exposed himself to criticism] with his remarks.

6 *of a bird, insect, etc.* : to produce (an egg) outside of the body : to push (an egg) out of the body [+ *obj*] birds that typically *lay* only two eggs per year [*no obj*] old chickens that no longer *lay* — see also *lay an egg* at ¹EGG

7 [+ *obj*] — used like *make, place*, or *put* in various phrases • She has ***laid plans*** [=she has made plans] to cut the staff down to just 15 people. • Even the ***best-laid plans*** [=the most carefully made plans] sometimes go wrong. • She ***lays great stress/emphasis*** on good manners. [=she stresses/emphasizes good manners very much] • The author ***lays the blame/responsibility*** for the state of the environment squarely on the government. [=the author blames the government for the state of the environment]

8 [+ *obj*] : to make (something) ready : to prepare (something) • *lay* a trap • *lay* a fire in the fireplace • (*Brit*) Places were *laid* (at the table) for three people. [=silverware, glasses, and napkins were put on the table for three people who will be eating there] • (*Brit*) *lay* [=*set*] the table for a meal

9 [+ *obj*] *informal* : to risk losing (money) if your guess about what will happen is wrong : BET • *lay* money on a race

10 [+ *obj*] *informal* + *offensive* : to have sex with someone — usually used in the phrase ***get laid*** • All he cares about is *getting laid*. [=having sex]

lay aside [*phrasal verb*] ***lay (something) aside*** *or* ***lay aside (something)*** **1** : to place (something) to one side • She *laid aside* [=*put aside, set aside*] the book she had been reading and turned on the TV. — often used figuratively • Plans for a new school have been *laid aside*. [=*put aside, set aside*] • It's time for all of us to *lay aside* old prejudices. • We need to *lay* our differences *aside* so that we can learn to work together. **2** : to keep (something) for special or future use : to reserve or save (something) : to keep (something) for special or future use • She has been able to *lay aside* [=*put aside*] a few dollars each week.

lay by [*phrasal verb*] ***lay (something) by*** *or* ***lay by (something)*** : to keep (something) for special or future use • She has been able to *lay by* [=*lay aside*] a few dollars each week.

lay charges *Brit* : to accuse someone officially of doing something illegal • Police are deciding whether to *lay charges* (against her).

lay claim to see ²CLAIM

lay down [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***lay (something) down*** *or* ***lay down (something)*** **a** : to clearly state (a rule, standard, guideline, etc.) • The company has *laid down* strict new safety standards. **b** : to stop using (something) • At noon, we *laid down* the rakes and rested for a while. • The strikers *laid down* their tools. **2** ***lay (a weapon) down*** *or* ***lay down (a weapon)*** : to put (a weapon) down and stop fighting • The police ordered the criminals to *lay down* their weapons. **3** ***lay down your life*** *formal* : to give up your life for a good purpose : to die for a good cause • heroes who *laid down their lives* to preserve our nation **4** ***lay down the law*** : to make a strong statement about what someone is or is not allowed to do • The agreement *lays down the law* (to everyone) on what the group allows. • When she came home after midnight, her father *laid down the law*: if she came home that late again, she would not be allowed to watch TV for a week. — see also ¹LAY 1 (above)

lay eyes on see ¹EYE

lay hold of see ²HOLD

lay in [*phrasal verb*] ***lay (something) in*** *or* ***lay in (something)*** : to get and store (a supply of something) for future use • They *laid in* [=*laid up*] canned goods for the winter.

lay into [*phrasal verb*] ***lay into (someone or something)*** *informal* : to angrily attack or criticize (someone or something) • The coach really *laid into* us for playing so carelessly.

lay it on the line see ¹LINE

lay off [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***lay (someone) off*** *or* ***lay off (someone)*** : to stop employing (someone) because there is not enough work • The company has had to *lay off* most of the staff. • Costs have increased and many workers have been *laid off*. [=*let go*] — see also LAYOFF **2** ***lay off (something)*** *informal* : to stop doing, using, eating, or drinking (something) • You should *lay off* the late nights. [=you should stop staying up so late] • My doctor advised me to *lay off* caffeine. • He's a much nicer person since he *laid off* the booze. [=since he stopped drinking alcohol] • I need to *lay off* fatty foods and lose some weight. **3** ***lay off*** *or* ***lay off (someone)*** *informal* : to leave someone alone : to stop annoying someone • I wish you'd just *lay off*! • *Lay off* me! [=stop bothering me]

lay on [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***lay (something) on*** *or* ***lay on (something)*** **a** : to spread (something) over a surface • Try to *lay* the grout *on* the surface evenly. — often used figuratively • (*informal*) My parents have been *laying* a lot of guilt *on* me. [=have been saying things that make me feel guilty] • (*informal*) If you have something to tell me, just *lay* it *on* me. [=just tell me] • He *laid* the flattery *on* pretty heavily. • She *laid on* a fake southern accent. [=she spoke with a southern accent although she doesn't usually speak that way] **b** *Brit* : to provide (something) for someone • If a lot of people want to come, more coaches will be *laid on* for them. **2** ***lay it on (thick)*** *informal* : to speak in a way that is exaggerated and not sincere • You should compliment her cooking but don't *lay it on too thick* or she'll know you don't mean it. • He *laid it on* pretty heavily and pretended to be interested in what she said.

lay out [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***lay (something) out*** *or* ***lay out (something)*** **a** : to place (something) on a surface in a carefully arranged way • The wires were *laid out* along the floor. • Brochures were *laid out* on a table. • She was *laying out* the cheese and crackers for the guests. **b** : to arrange (something) in a particular pattern or design • The garden was *laid out* in a formal pattern. • Much of Manhattan is *laid out* in the form of a grid. — see also LAYOUT **c** : to plan the details of (something) • She's been hired to *lay out* [=*map out*] the election campaign. • The work for tomorrow is all *laid out*. **d** : to explain the details of (something) • He *laid out* the reasons for his decision. **e** *informal* : to spend (money) • The city *laid out* millions of dollars for the new stadium. — see also OUTLAY **2** ***lay (someone's body) out*** *or* ***lay out (someone's body)*** : to prepare (someone's dead body) so that it can be seen by family and friends before it is buried • They *laid* him *out* in a plain coffin. **3** ***lay (someone) out*** *or* ***lay out (someone)*** *informal* : to make (someone) unconscious : to knock (someone) out • He *laid* his opponent *out* with a hard right to the jaw.

lay over [*phrasal verb*] *US* **1** : to make a stop in the middle of a journey • Our flight to Italy *laid over* in Madrid for several hours. **2** ***lay (someone) over*** : to cause (someone) to stop in the middle of a journey — usually used as *(be) laid over* • We *were laid over* in Madrid for several hours. — see also LAYOVER

lay siege to see SIEGE

lay (someone) to rest see ²REST

lay to rest (something) *or* ***lay (something) to rest*** see ²REST

lay up [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***lay (something) up*** *or* ***lay up (something)*** **a** *old-fashioned* : to store (something) • *lay up* [=*lay in*] grain for the winter **b** : to take (something) out of active use or service • We *laid up* the boat for the winter. **2** ***lay (someone) up*** *or* ***lay up (someone)*** : to cause (someone) to stay at home or in bed because of illness or injury • The flu *laid him up* for two weeks. — usually used as *(be) laid up* • He *was laid up* for six weeks with a bad back. • He *was laid up* by the flu.

lay waste to : to cause very bad damage to (something) • The fire *laid waste to* the land. [=the fire caused great destruction to the land]

lay your hands on see ¹HAND

the goose that lays the golden egg see ¹GOOSE

²lay *noun, pl* **lays** [*count*] *informal* + *offensive* : a person who is being described as a sexual partner • a great *lay* • an easy *lay* [=a person who is very willing to have sex] — see also LAY OF THE LAND

³lay *past tense of* ¹LIE

⁴lay *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : not trained in a certain profession : not having a lot of knowledge about a certain thing • a science magazine written for the *lay* public • *lay* and professional readers

2 : belonging to a religion but not officially a priest, minister, etc. • *lay* preachers

lay·about /'lejə,baʊt/ *noun, pl* **-abouts** [*count*] *informal* : a lazy person • an irresponsible *layabout* • her *layabout* brother

lay·away /ˈlejəˌweɪ/ *noun* [*singular*] *US* : a way of buying something in which you do not receive the thing you are buying until you have paid the full price by making small payments over a period of time ▪ We bought the table and chairs ***on layaway***, so we won't have them until December. ▪ The store offers a ***layaway plan*** for large purchases.

lay–by /ˈleɪˌbaɪ/ *noun, pl* **-bys** [*count*] *Brit* : an area next to a road where vehicles can stop : TURNOUT

[1]lay·er /ˈlejɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

1 : an amount of something that is spread over an area ▪ Everything was covered by a thin *layer* of sand/dust. ▪ a *layer* of clouds— see also OZONE LAYER

2 : a covering piece of material or a part that lies over or under another ▪ The top *layer* of the rug is badly worn but the bottom *layer* is still OK. ▪ The cake has three *layers*. ▪ She glued together several *layers* of paper. ▪ He was wearing several *layers* of clothing. ▪ rocks that formed in *layers* from flows of lava ▪ (*US*) When the weather is cold you should ***dress in layers***. [=you should wear several pieces of clothing on top of one another]— often used figuratively ▪ His novels have many *layers* [=*levels*] of meaning. ▪ a dish that has many *layers* of flavor [=that has many different flavors]

3 : a bird that lays eggs ▪ Their hens were poor *layers*. [=their hens did not produce many eggs]

4 : a worker who lays something (such as bricks) ▪ a brick *layer*

[2]layer *verb* **-ers**; **-ered**; **-er·ing** [+ *obj*] : to form or arrange parts or pieces of something on top of each other : to form or arrange (something) in layers ▪ The next step in the recipe is to *layer* the pasta and the sauce in the pan. [=to place a layer of pasta in the pan, then a layer of sauce, then another layer of pasta, and so on] ▪ We *layered* the fruit with whipped cream and served it with cookies. ▪ He *layered* her hair. [=he cut her hair in sections that were different lengths]— often used as *(be) layered* ▪ pasta *layered* with sauce

layer cake *noun, pl* ~ **cakes** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a cake made of more than one layer

lay·ette /leɪˈɛt/ *noun, pl* **-ettes** [*count*] : a collection of basic clothing and other things needed for a new baby

lay·in /ˈleɪˌɪn/ *noun, pl* **-ins** [*count*] *US, basketball* : LAYUP ▪ an easy *layin*

lay·man /ˈleɪmən/ *noun, pl* **-men** /-mən/ [*count*]

1 : a person who is not a member of a particular profession ▪ For a *layman*, he knows a lot about the law. ▪ a medical journal written in language that is clear to the *layman* [=clear to someone who is not a medical professional] ▪ The process was explained to us in ***layman's terms***. [=in simple language that anyone can understand]

2 : a person who belongs to a religion but is not a priest, minister, etc. ▪ He's an important *layman* in his church. — compare LAITY

lay·off /ˈleɪˌɑːf/ *noun, pl* **-offs** [*count*]

1 : the act of ending the employment of a worker or group of workers ▪ The company announced the *layoff* of several hundred employees. ▪ More *layoffs* are expected at the factory later this year.— see also *lay off* at [1]LAY

2 : a period of time during which there is no activity ▪ The band finally has a new album after a three year *layoff*. ▪ a *layoff* of three years

lay of the land *noun*

the lay of the land *US* : the arrangement of the different parts in an area of land : where things are located in a place ▪ She knew the *lay of the land* from hiking through it daily.— often used figuratively ▪ It takes time for new employees to get *the lay of the land* [=to learn how things are done] in this department.— called also (*Brit*) *the lie of the land*

lay·out /ˈleɪˌaʊt/ *noun, pl* **-outs** [*count*] : the design or arrangement of something : the way something is laid out ▪ The *layout* of the apartment was good, but the kitchen was too small. ▪ She designed the page *layout* for the new magazine.— see also *lay out* at [1]LAY

lay·over /ˈleɪˌoʊvɚ/ *noun, pl* **-overs** [*count*] *US* : a period of time when you are not traveling in the middle of a journey : STOPOVER ▪ a two-hour *layover*

lay·per·son /ˈleɪˌpɚsn̩/ *noun, pl* **lay·per·sons** *or* **lay·peo·ple** /ˈleɪˌpiːpəl/ [*count*] : LAYMAN ▪ a meeting between clergy and *laypeople*

lay·up /ˈleɪˌʌp/ *noun, pl* **-ups** [*count*] *basketball* : a shot made from a position that is very close to the basket

lay·wom·an /ˈleɪˌwʊmən/ *noun, pl* **-wom·en** /-ˌwɪmən/ [*count*] : a woman who belongs to a religion but is not a member of the clergy ▪ a Catholic *laywoman*— compare LAITY

laze /ˈleɪz/ *verb* **laz·es**; **lazed**; **laz·ing** [*no obj*] : to spend time relaxing ▪ She's been *lazing* in the sun all afternoon. ▪ While he was sick, he just *lazed* around the house.

laze away [*phrasal verb*] ***laze (something) away*** *or* ***laze away (something)*** : to relax and do very little for (a period of time) ▪ She *lazed away* the afternoon lying in the sun.

la·zy /ˈleɪzi/ *adj* **la·zi·er**; **-est**

1 *disapproving* : not liking to work hard or to be active ▪ a *lazy* child who avoided household chores ▪ I should have done more work this weekend, but I was feeling *lazy*.

2 *always used before a noun* : not having much activity : causing people to feel that they do not want to be active ▪ a *lazy* summer day

3 *always used before a noun* : moving slowly ▪ a hawk flying in *lazy* circles ▪ a *lazy* river

– la·zi·ly /ˈleɪzəli/ *adv* ▪ The leaves floated *lazily* down the stream.– **la·zi·ness** /ˈleɪzinəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ Her parents blame her bad grades on *laziness*.

la·zy·bones /ˈleɪziˌboʊnz/ *noun, pl* **lazybones** [*count*] *informal* : a lazy person ▪ They're such *lazybones* they'll never get the work done on time. ▪ Don't be such a *lazybones*.

lazy Su·san /-ˈsuːzn̩/ *noun, pl* ~ **-sans** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a round tray that can be turned and that is used for serving food at a table

lb. *abbr, pl* **lbs.** pound ▪ a 5-*lb*. bag of flour [=a five-pound bag of flour, a bag of flour weighing five pounds] ▪ The baby weighed 8 *lbs*. at birth. ✧ The abbreviation *lb*. comes from Latin word "libra," which means "pound."

LCD /ˌɛlˌsiːˈdiː/ *noun, pl* **LCDs** [*count*] : a screen (such as a television screen or the screen on a watch) that works by passing a small amount of electricity through a special liquid ✧ *LCD* is an abbreviation of "liquid crystal display."

leach /ˈliːʧ/ *verb* **leach·es**; **leached**; **leach·ing** *technical*

1 [+ *obj*] : to remove (a chemical, a metal, etc.) from a substance by the action of a liquid passing through the substance ▪ Even a small amount of rain can *leach* the toxic material from the soil. : to release (a chemical, a metal, etc.) when a liquid passes through ▪ Certain kinds of treated wood can *leach* chemicals into the soil.

2 [*no obj*] *of a chemical, a metal, etc.* : to be removed from a substance by a liquid passing through the substance ▪ The chemical eventually *leaches* away from the soil.

[1]lead /ˈliːd/ *verb* **leads**; **led** /ˈlɛd/; **lead·ing**

1 a : to guide someone to a place especially by going in front [*no obj*] You *lead* and we'll follow right behind you. [+ *obj*] He *led* [=*took*] me into a room in the back of the house. ▪ You *lead* us and we'll follow right behind you.— often + *to* ▪ The teacher *led* the child by the hand *to* his seat. = The teacher took the child's hand and *led* him *to* his seat. ▪ Our hostess *led* us *to* the dinner table.— often used as *(be) led* ▪ The passengers *were led* onto/aboard the ship by the steward. ▪ The prisoner *was* ***led off*** to jail [=was taken to jail] in handcuffs. — often used figuratively ▪ I gradually *led* the interview around/back to the subject of his failed marriage. ▪ He says that he will follow the evidence wherever it *leads* (him). ▪ This *leads* me to my next point, which is that the building needs a new roof. ▪ The painting's composition ***leads the/your eye*** to the figures in the foreground. [=causes you to look at the figures in the foreground] **b** [+ *obj*] : to go or be at the front part of (something) ▪ The veterans will *lead* a parade down Main Street. ▪ *lead* a march

2 [*no obj*] : to lie or go in a specified direction ▪ The path *leads* uphill. ▪ This road doesn't *lead* to the village as we thought it did. ▪ a set of stairs that *leads* down to the basement ▪ There was a path *leading* (off) from the meadow into the woods.— often used figuratively ▪ She realized that their relationship would never *lead* to marriage. ▪ The investigation into the murder was ***leading nowhere***. [=the investigation was not solving the crime]

3 : to guide the actions of a person or group : to be in charge of a person, group, activity, etc. [*no obj*] We need to elect someone who can *lead*. ▪ bosses who ***lead by example*** [=who show employees how they should act by acting that way themselves] [+ *obj*] She *leads* her employees by setting a good example for them. ▪ She *led* a successful boycott of the store. ▪ *lead* an expedition ▪ A visiting professor will be *leading* the seminar. ▪ *lead* [=*direct*] an orchestra ▪ She *led* the children in a song. [=she sang a song and the children sang with her]

4 [+ *obj*] : to cause (a person, group, etc.) to do something or

to follow some course of action ▪ Her interest in art *led* her into the field of art history. — usually followed by *to* or *to* + *verb* ▪ His volunteer work in the hospital *led* him *to* a career in nursing. = His volunteer work in the hospital *led* [=*inspired*] him *to become* a nurse. ▪ Her experience with cancer *led* her *to consider* writing a book on the subject. ▪ The evidence *leads* me *to believe* [=makes me believe] that this disease is curable. ▪ We've been *led to believe* that the labels on food items disclose all ingredients, but it's becoming clear that this is not the case. ▪ I had been *led to expect* that someone would meet me at the airport, but no one came. ▪ He *led me to understand* [=he told me or caused me to think] that the deadline was January 7.

5 : to be first, best, or ahead in a race or competition [*no obj*] the team that is currently *leading* in the pennant race ▪ At the end of the fourth inning, the Red Sox *led* by two runs. [+ *obj*] *lead* a race ▪ They *led* their opponents by 20 points at the end of the third quarter. ▪ the team that is *leading* the league [=the team that is in first place] ▪ a batter who *leads* the league in home runs [=who has hit more home runs than any other batter] ▪ a runner who is ***leading the pack/field*** [=a runner who is ahead of the group of other runners] — often used figuratively ▪ Their company ***leads the world*** [=is the most successful company in the world] in developing new technology to assist people with disabilities.

6 [+ *obj*] : to go through (life) in a certain way : to have (a specified kind of life) ▪ They chose to *lead* [=*live*] a quiet life. ▪ He *leads* a peaceful existence. ▪ It turned out that he had been ***leading a double life*** [=deceiving people about his life, not telling the whole truth about his life] ▪ He has always ***led a charmed life*** [=he has always been lucky] ▪ She needs to ***lead her own life*** [=she needs to make her own decisions about her life]

7 : to begin play in a card game with (a certain card or kind of card) [+ *obj*] *lead* trumps ▪ *led* a spade [*no obj*] *lead* with a spade

8 [*no obj*] : to guide a dance partner through the steps of a dance ▪ I don't know this dance, so I'd prefer it if you *lead*.

9 [+ *obj*] *law* : to ask (a witness) a question in a way that suggests what the answer should be : to ask (a witness) a leading question ▪ The judge ruled that the lawyer was *leading* the witness.

lead off [*phrasal verb*] ***lead off*** *or* ***lead (something) off*** *or* ***lead off (something)*** **1** : to start something (such as an activity or performance) in a specified way ▪ She *led off* [=*started, kicked off*] the presentation with a brief overview of the project. ▪ She *led off* [=*began*] with a brief overview of the project. **2** *baseball* : to be the first batter in an inning ▪ He *led off* with a walk. [=he was the first batter in his team's half of the inning and he was walked] ▪ He *led off* the inning with a home run. — see also LEADOFF

lead on [*phrasal verb*] ***lead (someone) on*** : to cause (someone) to wrongly continue believing or doing something ▪ She was devastated when she found out that he didn't really love her, and had only been *leading* her *on*. [=he had been leading her to believe that he loved her]

lead someone a merry chase (*US*) *or Brit* ***lead someone a (merry) dance*** *old-fashioned* : to cause a series of troubles or worries for (someone) ▪ He *led me a merry chase* before I finally got him to agree to a meeting.

lead someone (around) by the nose see ¹NOSE

lead someone down/up the garden path *informal* : to deceive someone : to cause someone to go, think, or proceed wrongly ▪ He believes the average consumer is being *led down the garden path* by the promises in advertisements.

lead the way : to be the first person to go somewhere ▪ You *lead the way*, and we'll follow. — often used figuratively ▪ Their company *led the way* in developing this technology. [=was the first to have success developing the technology]

lead to [*phrasal verb*] ***lead to (something)*** : to result in (something) ▪ a course of study *leading to* a degree in agriculture ▪ Her investigations ultimately *led to* the discovery of the missing documents. ▪ His volunteer work in the hospital *led to* a career in nursing. = His volunteer work in the hospital *led to* him becoming a nurse. — see also ¹LEAD 1a, 4 (above)

lead up to [*phrasal verb*] ***lead up to (something)*** **1** : to occur in the time that comes before (something) ▪ Many voters were still undecided in the days *leading up to* [=*approaching*] the election. **2** : to come before and help to cause (something) ▪ There was a series of errors *leading up to* the accident. **3** : to come before and help to introduce (something) ▪ a chapter *leading up to* the main topic of the book ▪ I had no idea what he was *leading up to* when he started talking about his father.

lead with [*phrasal verb*] ***lead with (something)*** **1** : to begin something (such as a story or speech) with (something specified) ▪ The newspaper story *led* [=*opened, began*] *with* a long report on the funeral. **2** : to begin a series of punches in boxing with (a punch thrown by a specified hand) ▪ The champion *led with* a left to the body, followed up quickly with a right to the jaw.

the blind leading the blind see ¹BLIND

²lead *noun, pl* leads

1 ***the lead*** **a** : a position that is ahead of others ▪ They walked single file, with the oldest boy ***in the lead*** [=with the oldest boy at the front of the line] ▪ You ***take the lead*** [=go first] and we'll follow right behind you. **b** : a position that is ahead of others in a race or competition ▪ A runner from Kenya is ***in the lead*** in the race. [=is leading the race] ▪ A runner from Kenya ***has/holds the lead*** ▪ Her car has ***taken/gained the lead*** = Her car has ***gone to/into the lead*** ▪ He was trailing in the polls last week, but now he has ***regained the lead*** — often used figuratively ▪ Their company has *taken the lead* in developing this new technology.

2 [*count*] : the amount or distance by which someone or something is ahead in a race or competition — usually singular ▪ Her car had a *lead* of 12 seconds over the next one. ▪ They had a *lead* of 20 points. = They had a 20-point *lead*. ▪ a narrow/slim *lead* ▪ Our candidate has established a comfortable/commanding *lead* in the opinion polls.

3 [*count*] : a piece of information that could help produce a desired result ▪ I'm a good salesman, but I need more *leads*. [=names of potential customers]; *especially* : a piece of information that might help in solving a crime ▪ The police have no *leads* in the case. ▪ Investigators are working on several *leads*.

4 [*count*] **a** : the main role in a movie or play ▪ Her big break came when she got/played the *lead* in a major Hollywood movie. ▪ He played the *lead* opposite Bette Davis [=he starred with Bette Davis] in two films. ▪ She got the ***lead role***; *also* : someone who plays the main role in movie or play ▪ She was the romantic *lead* in a major Hollywood movie. ▪ Who will be the male/female *lead* in his next film? **b** : the main performer in a group ▪ He ***sang/played lead*** [=sang/played as the main performer] in the band. — usually used before another noun ▪ the *lead* singer/guitarist

5 [*count*] **a** : the beginning part of a news story ▪ You should edit the *lead* so that it will grab the audience's attention. **b** : the most important news story in a newspaper or broadcast ▪ The story of his arrest was the *lead* in newspapers across the country. ▪ His arrest was the ***lead story*** [=the first and most important story] on the evening news.

6 [*count*] *baseball* : a position taken by a runner at a distance from a base before a pitch is thrown ▪ The runner on first took a big *lead*. [=moved several steps toward second base] ▪ The runner had a large *lead* off second base. [=stood several steps away from second base in the space between second and third base]

7 [*count*] *chiefly Brit* : ¹LEASH ▪ train a dog to walk on a *lead*

8 [*count*] *chiefly Brit* : a wire that carries electricity from a source to an electrical device (such as a lamp or radio) : an electrical cord

follow someone's lead : to do the same thing that someone else has done ▪ He *followed her lead* and voted in favor of the proposal.

– compare ³LEAD

³lead /ˈlɛd/ *noun, pl* leads

1 [*noncount*] : a heavy and soft metal that has a gray color ▪ a pipe made of *lead* — often used before another noun ▪ a *lead* pipe ▪ *lead* crystal [=glass made with lead in it] ▪ *lead* poisoning [=poisoning from eating, drinking, or touching something with lead in it] ▪ ***lead-free*** gasoline [=gasoline that does not contain lead]

2 : a thin stick of dark material used in pencils to make marks [*noncount*] a pencil with black *lead* ▪ a *lead* pencil [*count*] pencils with broken *leads*

3 [*noncount*] *chiefly US, informal* : bullets ▪ They shot him ***full of lead***

get the lead out *US, informal* : to begin going or moving more quickly ▪ *Get the lead out*! If we don't leave in five minutes we'll be late for the movie!

go over/down like a lead balloon see ¹BALLOON

– compare ²LEAD

lead•ed /ˈlɛdəd/ *adj*

1 : containing lead ▪ *leaded* gasoline — opposite UNLEADED

2 : having pieces of glass separated by narrow pieces of lead ▪ *leaded* glass ▪ *leaded* windows ▪ (*Brit*) ***leaded lights*** [=windows with leaded glass]

lead•en /ˈlɛdn̩/ *adj, literary*

1 : having a dull gray color ▪ a *leaden* sky/sea

2 : feeling heavy and difficult to move ▪ walked with *leaden* feet

3 : not lively or exciting ▪ *leaden* [=*dull*] conversation

lead•er /ˈliːdɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

1 : someone or something that leads others: such as **a** : someone who guides other people ▪ He acted as our *leader* [=*guide*] on the climb. ▪ The tour *leader* suggested several restaurants in the area. **b** : someone or something that is ahead of others in a race or competition ▪ She was the *leader* for most of the race, but she eventually finished second. ▪ He is the league *leader* in home runs. [=he has the most home runs in the league] ▪ the ***leader board*** [=the list of players who are leading a golf tournament] **c** : a powerful person who controls or influences what other people do : a person who leads a group, organization, country, etc. ▪ The class focused on the great religious/political *leaders* of the last century. ▪ the *leader* of an army ▪ a gang *leader* ▪ a *leader* of the antiwar movement ▪ Some people are *leaders*, and some people are followers. ▪ He's a ***born/natural leader***. [=someone who has qualities that a good leader has] **d** : a person, group, or organization that is the best or most successful in some activity ▪ The company has become a *leader* in developing new technology. ▪ a market *leader* [=a product or company that is more successful than all competing products or companies]

2 a : a person who leads a musical group ▪ the *leader* of a popular big band of the 1930s; *specifically, US* : the conductor of an orchestra ▪ the orchestra *leader* **b** *Brit* : CONCERTMASTER

3 *Brit* : [2]EDITORIAL ▪ *The Times* attacked the government in a *leader* today.

– see also LOSS LEADER

– **lead•er•less** *adj* ▪ a *leaderless* political movement

lead•er•ship /ˈliːdɚˌʃɪp/ *noun*

1 [*noncount*] **a** : a position as a leader of a group, organization, etc. ▪ She recently assumed (the) *leadership* of the company. **b** : the time when a person holds the position of leader ▪ The company has done very well ***under her leadership***. [=while she has been its leader]

2 [*noncount*] : the power or ability to lead other people ▪ a politician who lacks *leadership* ▪ What this country needs is the exercise of strong *leadership*! ▪ *leadership* skills

3 [*count*] : the leaders of a group, organization, or country ▪ The party *leadership* is uncertain about what to do next. = (*Brit*) The party *leadership* are uncertain about what to do next.

lead–in /ˈliːdˌɪn/ *noun, pl* **-ins** [*count*] : something that comes before and introduces something else ▪ The short animated movie is a good *lead-in* to the feature film.

lead•ing /ˈliːdɪŋ/ *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : having great importance, influence, or success ▪ a *leading* topic of conversation ▪ Their family played a *leading* part in the settlement of the town. ▪ the *leading* role in a major Hollywood movie ▪ a *leading* citizen of the town ▪ She's one of the *leading* authorities/experts on the stock market.

2 : most important : FOREMOST ▪ What is the *leading* [=*number one*] health problem for older women?

leading article *noun, pl* ~ **articles** [*count*] *Brit* : [2]EDITORIAL

leading edge *noun, pl* ~ **edges**

1 [*count*] : the front edge of something that moves ▪ the *leading edge* of an airplane's wing ▪ the *leading edge* of a thunderstorm

2 [*singular*] : the most important or advanced area of activity in a particular field ▪ a company that is at/on the *leading edge* [=*cutting edge*] of new developments in technology

leading lady *noun, pl* ~ **-dies** [*count*] : an actress who plays the most important female role in a play or movie

leading light *noun, pl* ~ **lights** [*count*] : a person who is a very important member of a group, organization, or community ▪ He is one of the *leading lights* of the labor movement.

leading man *noun, pl* ~ **men** [*count*] : an actor who plays the most important male role in a play or movie

leading question *noun, pl* ~ **-tions** [*count*] : a question asked in a way that is intended to produce a desired answer ▪ The judge made it quite clear that the lawyers were not permitted to ask witnesses *leading questions*. ▪ The interviewer asked a lot of *leading questions* and was clearly biased.

lead•off /ˈliːdˌɑːf/ *adj, baseball* : batting first at the start of a game or an inning ▪ a *leadoff* hitter ▪ a batter ***hitting leadoff*** = a batter hitting in the *leadoff* position — see also *lead off* at [1]LEAD

lead time /ˈliːd-/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the time between the beginning of a process or project and the appearance of its results ▪ We will need at least six months *lead time* before production begins.

lead–up /ˈliːdˌʌp/ *noun* [*singular*] : something that comes before or prepares for something else ▪ the *lead-up* to the war/trial

[1]leaf /ˈliːf/ *noun, pl* **leaves** /ˈliːvz/

1 : one of the flat and typically green parts of a plant that grow from a stem or twig [*count*] a maple *leaf* ▪ a tobacco *leaf* ▪ tea *leaves* ▪ I heard the rustle of the autumn *leaves*. ▪ a pile of dead *leaves* ▪ The trees drop their *leaves* in the fall, and new *leaves* grow again in the spring. [*noncount*] By the end of April, most trees are ***in leaf***. [=most trees have grown their new leaves] ▪ The trees have not yet ***come into leaf***. — see color picture on page C6

2 [*count*] : a sheet of paper in a book : PAGE — usually used figuratively ▪ I decided to ***take/borrow a leaf out of his book*** [=to do the same thing that he did] and invest some money in the stock market. — see also FLYLEAF, LOOSE-LEAF

3 [*count*] : a part that can be added to or removed from a table to change the size of its top surface

4 [*noncount*] : a very thin sheet of metal (such as gold or silver) that is used to decorate something ▪ silver *leaf*

turn over a new leaf : to start behaving or living in a different and better way ▪ I decided to *turn over a new leaf* and stop worrying so much. ▪ The program helps drug addicts to *turn over a new leaf* when they get out of jail.

– **leaf•less** /ˈliːfləs/ *adj* ▪ *leafless* trees – **leaf•like** /ˈliːfˌlaɪk/ *adj*

[2]leaf *verb* **leafs**; **leafed**; **leaf•ing**

leaf out [*phrasal verb*] *US, of a tree* : to produce leaves ▪ The tree will *leaf out* in the spring.

leaf through [*phrasal verb*] ***leaf through (something)*** : to turn the pages of (a book, a magazine, etc.) ▪ She was *leafing through* the magazine, looking at the pictures.

leafed /ˈliːft/ *adj* : having a specified kind or number of leaves : LEAVED — used in combination ▪ a silver-*leafed* plant ▪ a four-*leafed* clover

[1]leaf•let /ˈliːflət/ *noun, pl* **-lets** [*count*] : a printed and often folded sheet of paper that is usually given to people for no cost ▪ Protesters were handing out *leaflets* condemning the government's environmental policies. ▪ an advertising *leaflet*

[2]leaflet *verb* **-let•ed**; **-let•ing** : to give leaflets to many people in (a place) [+ *obj*] They *leafleted* several neighborhoods. [*no obj*] We spent the morning *leafleting*.

leafy /ˈliːfi/ *adj* **leaf•i•er**; **-est**

1 : having many leaves or trees ▪ *leafy* woodlands ▪ *leafy* trees ▪ a *leafy* suburb [=a suburb in which there are many trees]

2 : consisting mostly of leaves ▪ *leafy* vegetables ▪ *leafy* greens

[1]league /ˈliːg/ *noun, pl* **leagues** [*count*]

1 : a group of sports teams that play against each other ▪ a softball/bowling *league* ▪ the National Football *League* — often used figuratively ▪ I enjoy playing chess, but when I tried playing against George, I knew right away that I was ***out of my league***. [=I knew that he was much better than I was] ▪ According to one restaurant reviewer, the two chefs are ***not even in the same league***. [=one of the chefs is much better than the other] ▪ He's a pretty good writer, but he's ***not in the same league*** as she is. = He's a pretty good writer, but she's ***in a different league*** altogether. [=she is a much better writer than he is] ▪ When it comes to cooking, he's ***in a league of his own***. [=he is a much better cook than anyone else] — see also BIG LEAGUE, BUSH LEAGUE, IVY LEAGUE, LITTLE LEAGUE, MAJOR LEAGUES, MINOR LEAGUE

2 : a group or organization of nations or people united for a purpose ▪ the *League* of Nations ▪ joined the *League* of Voters ▪ The *league* has grown to include 12 member states.

in league (with) : working with someone especially to do something dishonest ▪ She denies that she is *in league with* [=*conspiring with*] corrupt officials. ▪ He suspects that they are *in league* together [=working with each other; working together] against him.

– compare [2]LEAGUE

[2]league *noun, pl* **leagues** [*count*] : any one of several old units of distance from about 2.4 to 4.6 miles (3.9 to 7.4 kilometers) — compare [1]LEAGUE

leagu•er /'li:gɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a person who belongs to a specified league ▪ a major/minor *leaguer* [=a player in baseball's major/minor leagues]

league table *noun, pl* ~ **tables** [*count*] *Brit* : a list of teams, schools, hospitals, etc. that shows them in order from best to worst

[1]leak /'li:k/ *verb* **leaks; leaked; leak•ing**

1 a : to let something (such as a liquid or gas) in or out through a hole in a surface [*no obj*] The roof was *leaking*. [=rainwater was getting into the building through the roof] ▪ The boat *leaked* badly. [=a lot of water got into the boat through its bottom] ▪ That hose is *leaking*. [=water is coming out of the side of that hose] ▪ a *leaking* boat/roof [+ *obj*] The boat was *leaking* water. ▪ The cracked pipe *leaked* fumes into the room. **b** [*no obj*] *of a liquid, gas, etc.* : to come in or go out through a hole in a surface ▪ Fumes *leaked* through the crack in the pipe. ▪ Air *leaked* out of the tire. ▪ Water was *leaking* through a hole in the roof.

2 a [+ *obj*] : to give (secret information) to someone so that it becomes known to the public ▪ Someone *leaked* the story to the press. ▪ a *leaked* story **b** [*no obj*] : to become known to the public ▪ We can't let this information *leak*. [=*get out*] — usually + *out* ▪ Eventually, news of the accident *leaked out*. ▪ Details about the case started to *leak out*.

[2]leak *noun, pl* **leaks** [*count*]

1 a : a hole in a surface that lets something (such as a liquid or gas) pass in or out ▪ The boat had developed a bad *leak*. ▪ The landlord said he would fix the *leak* in the roof. ▪ One of the car's tires has a ***slow leak***. [=a small hole through which air escapes slowly] ▪ The pipe suddenly ***sprung a leak***. [=began to leak] **b** : an occurrence in which something (such as a liquid or gas) passes through a hole in a surface ▪ a gas/oil *leak* ▪ a slow *leak* of the chemical

2 : a situation in which people learn about information that is supposed to be secret ▪ When a reporter revealed classified information, the source of the *leak* was investigated. ▪ Security is high because of a fear of *leaks* before negotiations have been finished. ▪ a security *leak*

take a leak *or Brit* ***have a leak*** *informal + impolite* : to pass liquid from the body : URINATE

– **leak•proof** /'li:k,pru:f/ *adj* ▪ a *leakproof* container

leak•age /'li:kɪʤ/ *noun, pl* **-ag•es**

1 a : an occurrence in which something (such as a liquid or gas) passes through a hole in a surface [*noncount*] Some of the water was lost from the containers because of *leakage*. [=because it leaked out] [*count*] trying to prevent accidental *leakages* **b** [*count*] : the amount that is lost when something leaks ▪ *Leakages* of about 30 percent were reported.

2 : an occurrence in which secret information becomes known [*noncount*] taking steps to prevent *leakage* of confidential information [*count*] *leakages* of confidential information

leaky /'li:ki/ *adj* **leak•i•er; -est** : having a hole that allows something (such as a liquid or gas) to pass in or out : having a leak ▪ a *leaky* boat/pipe ▪ The roof was *leaky*.

[1]lean /'li:n/ *verb* **leans; leaned** *or Brit* **leant** /'lɛnt/; **lean•ing**

1 a [*no obj*] : to bend or move from a straight position ▪ The tree *leans* to one side. ▪ He *leaned* back in his chair. ▪ They *leaned* over the table to smell the flowers. **b** [+ *obj*] : to cause (something) to bend or move from a straight position ▪ They *leaned* their heads back. ▪ He *leaned* his chair back.

2 a [*no obj*] : to rest *on* or *against* something or someone for support ▪ You can *lean on* me if you get tired. ▪ She stood *leaning on* her right leg. ▪ The ladder was *leaning against* the house. **b** [+ *obj*] : to cause (something) to rest *on* or *against* something ▪ He *leaned* the ladder *against* the house. ▪ The boy *leaned* his head *on* his mother's shoulder.

3 a — used to describe what someone wants to do, tends to do, or is likely to do ▪ She hasn't made a decision yet, and I don't know which way she's *leaning*. — often + *toward* ▪ She's *leaning toward* a career in medicine. [=she is probably going to choose a career in medicine] ▪ The mayor is *leaning toward* closing down the school. **b** — used to say that someone supports one group or set of beliefs more than another; often + *toward* ▪ an independent presidential candidate who *leans toward* the Democrats and their views **c** — used to say that something is more like one thing than another; often + *toward* ▪ Her new album *leans* more *toward* rock than country.

lean on [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***lean on (someone or something)*** : to depend on (someone or something) for support ▪ He *leaned on* his family during the crisis. ▪ She was someone you could *lean on*. **2** ***lean on (someone)*** *informal* : to force or try to force (someone) to do something especially by making threats : to put pressure on (someone) ▪ They were *leaning on* the governor to pass the law.

lean over backward see [1]BACKWARD

[2]lean *adj* **lean•er; lean•est** [*also more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : not having much fat on the body : physically thin, strong, and healthy ▪ She has a *lean*, athletic body. ▪ a *lean* racehorse

2 : containing little or no fat ▪ *lean* meat ▪ (*US*) *lean* ground beef

3 : not having or producing much money, food, etc. ▪ Those were *lean* years for the company. [=the company did not make much money in those years] ▪ a *lean* budget/profit/harvest

4 *usually approving* : not using a lot of something (such as words or money) ▪ He had a *lean* style of writing. [=his writing style did not use too many words] : not wasteful ▪ She ran a *lean* and efficient company. ▪ We wanted our business to be ***lean and mean***.

– **lean•ness** /'li:nnəs/ *noun* [*noncount*]

synonyms LEAN, THIN, and SKINNY mean not having much fat on the body. LEAN suggests a lack of unnecessary fat and may also suggest the muscular body of an athlete. ▪ the strong *lean* legs of a runner THIN can describe a person whose lack of fat is unhealthy, but it also often describes a person who is considered attractive. ▪ a *thin* and sickly old man ▪ The room was full of beautiful *thin* women. SKINNY describes a person who has an extremely thin appearance and who may not be healthy or eat enough food. ▪ *skinny* children in poor countries ▪ *skinny* legs

lean•ing /'li:nɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-ings** [*count*] : a preference for something or tendency to do something — often + *toward* ▪ Her *leaning* is *toward* a career in medicine. — often plural ▪ His political *leanings* are unknown. ▪ The two painters have similar artistic *leanings*.

lean–to /'li:n,tu:/ *noun, pl* **-tos** [*count*] : a small and usually roughly made building that is built on the side of a larger building

[1]leap /'li:p/ *verb* **leaps; leaped** /'li:pt, 'lɛpt/ *or* **leapt** /'lɛpt, 'li:pt/; **leap•ing**

1 a [*no obj*] : to jump from a surface ▪ The cat suddenly *leaped* into the air. ▪ Fish were *leaping* out of the water. ▪ He *leaped* off the bridge. ▪ The cat *leapt* down from (the top of) the table. ▪ The boys *leaped* over the stream. ▪ He made a *leaping* catch. [=he caught the ball as he jumped] **b** [+ *obj*] : to jump over (something) ▪ The horse *leaped* the stone wall.

2 [*no obj*] : to move quickly ▪ She *leapt* up [=she stood up quickly] and ran out the door. ▪ When the alarm went off, she *leapt* out of bed. ▪ The crowd ***leapt to its feet***. [=stood up quickly in excitement] — often used figuratively ▪ The team *leaped* from last place to first place. ▪ The conversation *leapt* from politics to religion. ▪ When other people accused her of being lazy, he ***leaped to her defense***. [=he quickly began to defend her] ▪ They ***leaped into action***. [=acted immediately]

3 [*no obj*] : to suddenly increase by a large amount ▪ The price of gasoline *leaped* (by) 10 percent.

leap at [*phrasal verb*] ***leap at (something)*** : to eagerly take (a chance, opportunity, etc.) ▪ She *leaped at* [=*jumped at*] the chance/opportunity to show her boss what she could do. ▪ He *leapt at* the offer of a better job.

leap off the page see [1]PAGE

leap out at [*phrasal verb*] ***leap out at (someone)*** **1** : to suddenly come at (someone) from a hiding place ▪ The hidden assailant *leaped* [=*jumped*] *out at* them. **2** : to immediately get the attention of (someone) ▪ The picture on the magazine's cover *leaps out at* you.

leap to conclusions see CONCLUSION

leap to mind see [1]MIND

look before you leap see [1]LOOK

your heart leaps see HEART

– **leap•er** /'li:pɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

[2]leap *noun, pl* **leaps**

1 [*count*] **a** : a long or high jump ▪ She made a graceful *leap* into the air. ▪ He ran and took ***a flying leap*** over the stream. **b** : the distance that a person or animal jumps ▪ He won the high jump with a *leap* of six feet.

2 [*count*] : a great and sudden change, increase, or improvement ▪ She made the difficult *leap* [=*transition*] from college to the workplace. ▪ the *leap* from childhood to adulthood ▪ a *leap* [=*jump*] in the cost of automobiles ▪ She has shown great *leaps* in ability. ▪ Technology has taken a great *leap* forward.

— see also QUANTUM LEAP

3 [*singular*] : a serious attempt to do or understand something new ▪ an imaginative *leap* ▪ It required a ***leap of the imagination*** to picture how the project would look when it was completed. ✧ A ***leap in the dark*** is something that is done without knowing anything about what the result might be. ▪ He had no experience, so starting his own business was a real *leap in the dark*. ✧ A ***leap of faith*** is a decision to believe that something is true or possible even though other people may doubt it. ▪ He has taken/made a *leap of faith* in starting his own business. ▪ It takes/requires a *leap of faith* to believe that this project can succeed.

by/in leaps and bounds : very quickly and greatly ▪ The company grew *by leaps and bounds*. ▪ Their knowledge has increased *in leaps and bounds*.

take a flying leap *US, informal + impolite* — used to tell someone who angers or annoys you to go away ▪ She told him to (go) *take a flying leap*. [=(*Brit*) *take a running jump*]

[1]leap·frog /ˈliːpˌfrɑːg/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a children's game in which one player bends down so that another player can leap over the back of the first player ▪ play *leapfrog*

[2]leapfrog *verb* **-frogs; -frogged; -frog·ging** : to move ahead of or beyond (someone or something) in a very quick and sudden way [+ *obj*] Skipping his last two years of high school, he *leapfrogged* his classmates and went to college. ▪ This year's technologies are *leapfrogging* last year's designs. [*no obj*] — usually + *over* ▪ She *leapfrogged over* her more experienced coworkers and became the company's president.

leap year *noun, pl* ~ **years** [*count*] : a year of 366 days instead of 365 with February having 29 days instead of 28 ✧ A leap year occurs every four years. ▪ The year 2004 was a *leap year*.

learn /ˈlɚn/ *verb* **learns; learned** *also chiefly Brit* **learnt** /ˈlɚnt/; **learn·ing**

1 : to gain knowledge or skill by studying, practicing, being taught, or experiencing something [*no obj*] People *learn* throughout their lives. ▪ He is *learning* quickly. ▪ I can't swim yet, but I'm *learning*. — often + *about* ▪ We *learned about* the reasons for the war in our history class. — often + *from* ▪ We all have the ability to *learn from* our mistakes. ▪ She *learned from* experience that when grease catches on fire, you shouldn't put water on it. [+ *obj*] *learn* arithmetic ▪ *learn* a trade ▪ She's interested in *learning* French. ▪ We had to *learn* the rules of the game. — often + *about* ▪ She's been trying to *learn* more *about* our family history. — often *to* + *verb* ▪ He never *learned* (how) *to dance/swim*. ▪ I'm *learning to play* the guitar. ▪ He *learned* how not *to offend* people. ▪ You need to *learn* (how) *to take* care of your health.

2 [+ *obj*] : to cause (something) to be in your memory by studying it : MEMORIZE ▪ I'm trying to *learn* my lines for the play. ▪ We had to *learn* the names of the state capitals. ▪ *learn* the alphabet

3 : to hear or be told (something) : to find out (something) [+ *obj*] She *learned* through/from a letter that her father had died. ▪ I later *learned* that they had never called. ▪ I was surprised when I *learned* (that) he wasn't coming. ▪ We finally *learned* the truth about what had happened. [*no obj*] — + *of* ▪ We were shocked to *learn of* her death. [=to find out about her death] ▪ She first *learned of* the accident on Monday.

4 : to become able to understand (something) through experience [+ *obj*] *learn* the difference between right and wrong ▪ He quickly *learned* what it means to be a father. ▪ We *learned* that if we wanted a good job, we had to go to college. ▪ I have *learned* that life isn't easy. ▪ Someday you'll *learn* that money is not the most important thing in life. ▪ He ***learned the hard way*** that crime doesn't pay. [=he found out by being punished for his crimes] — often followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ It's important to *learn to respect* other people. ▪ It's a bad situation, but we'll just have to ***learn to live with it***. [=we will have to accept it and deal with it] [*no obj*] Someday you'll *learn*. ▪ Even after all his health problems, he's still eating and drinking too much. Some people never *learn*.

live and learn see [1]LIVE

– learn·able /ˈlɚnəbəl/ *adj* ▪ *learnable* skills

learned *adj*

1 /ˈlɚnəd/ [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : having or showing a lot of learning, education, or knowledge ▪ a *learned* scholar ▪ We had a *learned* discussion about politics. ▪ a *learned* opinion ▪ She has published articles in both *learned* [=*scholarly*] journals and popular magazines.

2 /ˈlɚnd/ — used to describe something that people get or have because of learning or experience ▪ Speaking a language is a *learned* behavior. ▪ a *learned* response

learn·er /ˈlɚnɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

1 : a person who learns ▪ He is a fast *learner*. [=he learns fast] ▪ slow *learners* : a person who is trying to gain knowledge or skill in something by studying, practicing, or being taught ▪ an adult *learner* ▪ an advanced *learner* ▪ *learners* of English as a second language ▪ a *learner's* dictionary

2 *Brit* : STUDENT DRIVER

learner driver *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] *Brit* : STUDENT DRIVER

learner's permit *noun, pl* ~ **-mits** [*count*] *US* : a document that allows a person to learn how to drive a car ▪ After you get your *learner's permit*, I'll let you drive my car. — called also (*Brit*) *provisional licence*

learn·ing /ˈlɚnɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : the activity or process of gaining knowledge or skill by studying, practicing, being taught, or experiencing something : the activity of someone who learns ▪ a computer program that makes *learning* fun ▪ different methods of foreign language *learning* ▪ The first year of college was a *learning* experience.

2 : knowledge or skill gained from learning ▪ They were people of good education and considerable/great *learning*. ▪ ***book learning*** [=knowledge gained from reading books]

learning curve *noun, pl* ~ **curves** [*count*] : the rate at which someone learns something new : the course of progress made in learning something ▪ The job has a very steep *learning curve*. [=there is a large amount that has to be learned quickly in order to do the job]

learning disability *noun, pl* ~ **-ties** [*count*] : a condition that makes learning difficult ▪ students with *learning disabilities* — called also (*chiefly Brit*) *learning difficulty*

– learning disabled *adj* ▪ parents with *learning disabled* children

learnt *chiefly Brit past tense and past participle of* LEARN

[1]lease /ˈliːs/ *noun, pl* **leas·es** [*count*] : a legal agreement that lets someone use a car, house, etc., for a period of time in return for payment ▪ sign a *lease* ▪ They took out a five-year *lease* on the house. ▪ We hold *leases* on both of our cars. ▪ The *lease* expires next month. = The *lease* runs out next month.

a new lease on life (*US*) *or Brit* ***a new lease of life*** : a chance to continue living or to become successful or popular again ▪ This medicine gives patients *a new lease on life*. ▪ After they made the movie, the book got *a new lease on life*. [=the book became newly popular] ▪ The band has given this style of music *a new lease on life*.

[2]lease *verb* **leases; leased; leas·ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to use (something) for a period of time in return for payment ▪ She *leases* a red convertible. ▪ I have *leased* this house for the last four years.

2 : to allow someone to use (something) for a period of time in return for payment ▪ We *leased* the house to a young married couple.

[1]leash /ˈliːʃ/ *noun, pl* **leash·es** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a long, thin piece of rope, chain, etc., that is used for holding a dog or other animal ▪ put a dog on a *leash* ▪ Dogs must be kept on a *leash* while in the park. ▪ The dog saw a cat and was straining at its *leash* trying to get at it. — often used figuratively ▪ The coach kept her players on a (short/tight) *leash* throughout the year. [=the coach closely watched and controlled the behavior of her players] ▪ The kids were straining at the *leash* to get going. [=were very eager to get going] — called also (*chiefly Brit*) *lead*

[2]leash *verb* **leashes; leashed; leash·ing** [+ *obj*] : to put (a dog or other animal) on a leash ▪ You need to *leash* your dog while in the park. ▪ a *leashed* dog

[1]least /ˈliːst/ *adj, superlative form of* [1]LITTLE : smallest in amount or degree ▪ The *least* [=*slightest*] noise would startle her. ▪ I try to spend the *least* (amount of) time possible in the kitchen. = I try to spend the *least* possible (amount of) time in the kitchen. ▪ We finished without the *least* help from you. [=without any help from you] ▪ She hasn't shown the *least* sign of remorse. [=she hasn't shown any remorse]

not (in) the least bit see [1]BIT

take/follow the path/line of least resistance see RESISTANCE

[2]least *noun*

the least : something of the lowest importance, strength, value, etc. ▪ Any noise—even *the* (very) *least*—would startle her. — often + *of* ▪ That's *the least of* my worries/problems. [=I have more important worries/problems to deal

with] ▪ We had many things to consider, not *the least of* which was the safety of our children. [=the safety of our children was very important]

at least **1 :** not less than a specified amount, level, etc. ▪ *At least* once a year, we visit our grandparents. ▪ We meet *at least* once a month. = We meet once a month *at least*. ▪ You must be *at least* 21 years of age to enter. ▪ He was *at least* six feet tall. ▪ He must have *at least* 300 CDs! **2** — used to say that something (such as a bad situation) could be or have been worse ▪ The weather was cold, but *at least* it didn't rain. ▪ I was tired and hungry, but *at least* I was free. ▪ We don't have much money, but *at least* we still have each other. **3** — used to indicate the smallest or easiest thing that someone can or should do ▪ Well, he could have *at least* apologized. **4 a** — used to indicate that the truth of a statement might change or has changed ▪ We're going to have a picnic, *at least* if it doesn't rain. ▪ I'm fine for now *at least*. [=I'm fine for now although I may not be fine later] ▪ He was unknown in the music world, *at least* until recently. **b** — used to indicate that the truth of a previous statement is not certain ▪ Her name is Sue, or *at least* I think it is. ▪ He is coming today. *At least* that's what he told me.

at the (very) least — used to indicate the least thing that is true, acceptable, desirable, or certain to happen ▪ He wanted to win the race, or *at the least*, to finish second. ▪ It is, *at the very least*, an interesting book. ▪ It will change your life or, *at the very least*, teach you something new. ▪ *At the very least*, she deserves to be heard.

not (in) the least **:** not at all **:** not in any way or respect ▪ It did *not* interest me *in the least*. [=it did not interest me at all] ▪ He did*n't* enjoy it *in the least*. ▪ That joke was *not in the least* funny. ▪ We were*n't in the least* tired. ▪ I'm *not the least* worried.

the least (someone) can do **:** the smallest or easiest thing that someone can or should do ▪ *The least he could do* is tell me what happened. ▪ There's no need to thank me for my help. Considering all the help you've given me in the past, it was *the least I could do*. [=I do not deserve to be thanked for the small thing I did]

to say the least — used to emphasize a statement ▪ She was not happy, *to say the least*. [=she was very unhappy] ▪ He is, *to say the least*, hopeful about the future. [=he is very hopeful about the future] ▪ *To say the least*, they were disappointed that their trip was canceled.

L

[3]least *adv, superlative form of* [2]LITTLE **:** in or to the smallest degree ▪ Who was the *least* at fault in the case? ▪ He asked me to help him when I *least* expected it. ▪ That was the *least* important of her reasons. ▪ That was the *least* interesting book I have ever read.

last but not least see [3]LAST

least of all **:** especially not ▪ No one, *least of all* the children, wanted to go home early.

not least *formal* **:** especially or particularly ▪ We had many things to consider, *not least* the safety of our children.

least common denominator *noun* [*noncount*] *US* **:** LOWEST COMMON DENOMINATOR

least•ways /ˈliːstˌweɪz/ *or* **least•wise** /ˈliːstˌwaɪz/ *adv, informal* **:** at least ▪ The weather was cold, but *leastways* it didn't rain. ▪ He was unknown in the music world, *leastwise* until recently.

leath•er /ˈlɛðɚ/ *noun* [*noncount*] **:** animal skin that is chemically treated to preserve it and that is used in making clothes, shoes, furniture, etc. — see also PATENT LEATHER

– leather *adj* ▪ a black *leather* jacket

leath•ery /ˈlɛðəri/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] **:** looking or feeling like leather ▪ The meat was dry and *leathery*. [=*tough*] ▪ the old farmer's *leathery*, brown skin

[1]leave /ˈliːv/ *verb* **leaves; left** /ˈlɛft/; **leav•ing**

1 a : to go away from (a place) [+ *obj*] What time will you *leave* the office? ▪ Don't *leave* home without your wallet. ▪ I *left* the party at seven o'clock. [*no obj*] We will *leave* at 10 o'clock. ▪ Are we *leaving* soon? ▪ She *left* quickly. ▪ They *left* by bus. ▪ The train *left* an hour ago but another will be arriving soon. — often + *for* ▪ We're *leaving for* the game in an hour. ▪ The train *left* from Paris *for* Barcelona an hour ago. **b** [+ *obj*] **:** to go away from (a place) to live in a different place ▪ They *left* the country for a new life in the city. ▪ He ***left town*** a month ago. ▪ He ***left home*** [=left his parent's house and lived somewhere else] after graduating from high school. **2 a** [+ *obj*] **:** to go away from (a person) ▪ She *left* her friends and went home. ▪ We *left* him so that he could do his work. = We *left* him to his work. = He had work to do, so we *left* him to it. ▪ We *left* him doing his work. [=he was doing his work when we left him] **b :** to stop living with and having a close personal relationship with (someone) [+ *obj*] His mother *left* [=*abandoned, deserted*] him when he was very young. ▪ He *left* his wife and children. ▪ His wife *left* him for another man. [*no obj*] He hasn't been the same since his wife *left*. **3 a** [+ *obj*] **:** to give up or stop having (a job, position, etc.) ▪ He *left* [=*quit*] his job and went back to school. ▪ a politician who will be *leaving* office next year **b :** to stop attending, belonging to, or working for (a school, a group, an organization, etc.) [+ *obj*] She *left* school and got a job. ▪ She *left* our team and joined another one. ▪ He has one more year before he *leaves* the army. ▪ He's going to be *leaving* the company soon and starting his own business. [*no obj*] You must give the company two weeks' notice before *leaving*. **c** [+ *obj*] **:** to stop participating in (something, such as a game) ▪ The starting quarterback had to *leave* the game because of an injury. ▪ When did she *leave* the meeting? **4** [+ *obj*] **a :** to go away and allow or cause (something or someone) to remain ▪ Please *leave* your books at home. ▪ You may *leave* your things in this room. **:** to put or bring (something or someone) somewhere and go away ▪ I *left* the groceries on the table. ▪ Please *leave* the package by the door. ▪ We *left* a turkey (roasting) in the oven. ▪ I *left* my brother at the airport. ▪ They *left* their dog in the car. **b** ✧ If you ***leave someone or something with someone***, you allow someone to keep and care for someone or something while you are away. ▪ They went out to dinner and *left* their children (home) *with* a babysitter. ▪ We *left* our dog *with* the neighbors while we went on vacation. **c :** to go away and forget or neglect to take (something) ▪ He *left* [=*forgot*] his wallet at the restaurant. ▪ I *left* my homework in my car. ▪ Did you *leave* your key in the door again? **d :** to go away permanently without taking (something or someone) ▪ He *left* nothing in his old apartment. — often + *behind* ▪ They *left behind* everything they owned. ▪ We had to *leave* our family and friends *behind*. ▪ He *left* it all *behind*. [=took nothing with him] ▪ I wanted to ***leave the past behind***. [=forget about the past] **5** [+ *obj*] **:** to put (something) in a place for another person to take or have ▪ Did she *leave* a package for me? ▪ We *left* a good tip for our waitress. = We *left* our waitress a good tip. ▪ I *left* a message (for you) on your answering machine. ▪ He *left* his name and phone number. **6** [+ *obj*] **a :** to allow someone else to deal with or do (something) — often + *with* ▪ "It's a pretty complicated problem." "*Leave* it *with* me: I'll see what I can do." — often + *for* ▪ You don't have to wash the dishes. Just *leave* them *for* me. [=I will wash the dishes] — often + *to* ▪ *Leave* your computer problems *to* the experts. [=let the experts solve your computer problems] ▪ That kind of decision should be *left to* the parents. ▪ They *left* the decision (up) *to* me. ▪ She *left* it *to* the readers *to decide* the story's ending. ▪ I'll *leave* it (up) *to* you (*to decide*) whether or not we go to the movies. ▪ I'll *leave* you *to draw* your own conclusions. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ Whether or not we have a picnic will be *left* (up) *to* the weather. [=will be determined by the weather] **b** ✧ In informal U.S. English, you can say ***leave it to someone*** (to do something), when someone has acted in a way that is typical or expected. ▪ *Leave it to my mom* to make everyone feel comfortable. [=my mom always makes everyone feel comfortable] **c** ✧ If people ***leave you to do*** something, they do not help you do it. ▪ He *left me to find* my own way home. ▪ She was *left to finish* the job by herself. ▪ I'll *leave you to draw* your own conclusions. ▪ I was *left to fend* for myself. **7** [+ *obj*] **:** to cause (something or someone) to be or remain in a specified condition or position ▪ Years of pollution has *left* [=*made*] the water undrinkable. ▪ Their argument *left* him angry and confused. ▪ The accident *left* him paralyzed. ▪ Your kind words *leave* me speechless. ▪ I'll *leave* the door unlocked for you. ▪ She *left* the door/window open. ▪ Did you *leave* the lights on? ▪ Much was *left* undone. ▪ Let's just ***leave it at that***. [=let's not change it or discuss it further] — often + *-ing verb* ▪ They cut down the trees but *left* the rosebushes *standing*. ▪ It *left* them *wondering* when it would all end. — often + *with* ▪ I don't want to punish you, but your actions ***leave me (with) no/little choice***. [=your actions make it necessary for me to punish you] ▪ They were ***left with no option*** but to sell their car. [=they were forced to sell their car] **8** [+ *obj*] **a :** to allow (something) to remain available or unused ▪ He wanted to *leave* a way out for himself. = He wanted to *leave* himself a way out. ▪ Please *leave* space/room for another chair. ▪ Don't eat too much. You need to *leave* room for dessert. [=you need to leave enough room in your stom-

ach so that you can eat dessert] ▪ That doesn't *leave* much room for discussion. **b** ✧ An amount that ***is left (over)*** or that you ***have left (over)*** is an amount that remains after the rest has been used or taken away. ▪ There *is* only one piece of bread *left*. [=*remaining*] ▪ After feeding 20 people, there *was* nothing *left* for me. ▪ How much time do we *have left* before we can go home? ▪ There *was* no one *left* in the city after the parade. ▪ Do we *have* any pizza *left over* from last night? ▪ We *have* many decorations *left over* from the party.

9 [+ *obj*] : to cause (something) to remain as a result, mark, or sign ▪ The cut *left* an ugly scar. ▪ The grape juice *left* a stain on the carpet. ▪ The rain is *leaving* a thin layer of ice on the roads. ▪ The thief was careful not to *leave* any clues. ▪ We promise we won't *leave* a mess. ▪ His visit *left* a lasting impression on our family. ▪ The experience ***left a bad taste in my mouth***. [=the experience made me feel bad or disgusted]

10 [+ *obj*] **a** : to have (family members) living after your death ▪ He *left* (behind) a widow and two children. ▪ She *leaves* (behind) 7 children and 28 grandchildren. **b** : to give (something, such as money or property) to (someone) after your death ▪ She *left* a fortune to her husband. ▪ His parents *left* him a house and a small amount of money.

11 [+ *obj*] *mathematics* : to have (a number) as a remainder ▪ Taking 7 from 10 *leaves* 3.

I must love you and leave you see ²LOVE

leave much to be desired see ¹DESIRE

leave no stone unturned see ¹STONE

leave off [*phrasal verb*] **1** : to stop before finishing a story, conversation, etc. ▪ Let's begin where we *left off*. ▪ Where did we *leave off* in our conversation? **2** ***leave off (doing something)*** *informal* : to stop (doing something) ▪ They finally *left off* trying to reach an agreement.

leave out [*phrasal verb*] ***leave out (someone or something)*** *or* ***leave (someone or something) out*** : to not include or mention (someone or something) ▪ The movie *leaves* a lot *out* of the story. ▪ You *left out* the best part. ▪ Did everyone get a piece of cake? I don't want to *leave* anyone *out*. ▪ They always *leave* her *out* of the conversation. ▪ He always ***feels left out*** when his friends talk about sports.

leave (someone) guessing see ¹GUESS

leave (someone) in the dust see ¹DUST

leave (someone) in the lurch see ³LURCH

leave (someone or something) alone : to not bother or touch (someone or something) ▪ Please *leave* the baby *alone*. She needs to sleep. ▪ Please *leave* the vase *alone*.

leave (someone or something) be : to not bother or touch (someone or something) ▪ Please *leave* [=*let*] me *be*.

leave (someone or something) for dead see ¹DEAD

leave (someone) out in the cold see ²COLD

leave (something) to the imagination see IMAGINATION

leave well enough alone *or Brit* ***leave well alone*** : to stop changing something that is already good enough ▪ He just doesn't know when to *leave well enough alone*.

leave you cold see ¹COLD

leave you to your own devices see DEVICE

left at the altar see ALTAR

take it or leave it see ¹TAKE

²leave *noun*

1 : a period of time when someone has special permission to be away from a job or from military service [*singular*] He took an unpaid *leave* from work. ▪ The soldiers were given a two-month *leave* for the holidays. [*noncount*] 12 weeks of *leave* ▪ He took a few months' *leave* to care for his sick mother. ▪ The company granted her ***maternity leave***. [=time off to take care of a newborn child] ▪ Our professor is ***on leave*** this semester. ▪ She is *on leave* from her law firm. ▪ a soldier *on* military *leave* — called also *leave of absence*; see also COMPASSIONATE LEAVE, FAMILY LEAVE, SHORE LEAVE, SICK LEAVE

2 [*noncount*] *formal* : permission to do something ▪ I beg *leave* to differ with you, sir. ▪ He was found guilty but was granted/given *leave* to appeal against the verdict. ▪ The soldier was guilty of being absent without (official) *leave*.

take leave of someone *or* ***take your leave*** *formal* : to say goodbye to someone ▪ It was late when they finally *took leave of* their friends and headed home. ▪ After a few minutes of polite conversation, he *took his leave*.

take leave of your senses : to begin acting or thinking in a very foolish way ▪ Have you *taken leave of your senses*?

without (so much as) a by your leave *old-fashioned* : without asking permission ▪ He borrowed my car *without so much as a by your leave*!

leaved /ˈliːvd/ *adj* : having leaves of a particular kind or number — usually used in combination ▪ This bush is red-*leaved* in autumn. ▪ a broad-*leaved* tree

¹leav•en /ˈlɛvən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : a substance (such as yeast) that makes dough rise and become light before it is baked — called also *leavening*

2 *literary* : something that makes a situation or mood less serious ▪ a serious book that includes a few humorous stories as *leaven*

²leaven *verb* **-ens**; **-ened**; **-en•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 *formal* : to make (something) less serious and often more exciting ▪ Her jokes *leavened* [=*lightened*] the meeting's mood. ▪ He needs to *leaven* his speeches with more humor.

2 : to add leaven to (bread, dough, etc.) ▪ using yeast to *leaven* the dough/bread ▪ Some breads are *leavened* [=made with leaven] and some breads are unleavened.

leav•en•ing /ˈlɛvənɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : ¹LEAVEN 1

leave of absence *noun, pl* **leaves of absence**

1 [*noncount*] : permission to be away from a job for a period of time ▪ He was granted/given *leave of absence*.

2 : a period of time when someone has special permission to be away from a job : LEAVE [*count*] He took two unpaid *leaves of absence*. [*noncount*] She has been ***on leave of absence*** for almost two years.

leaves *plural of* ¹LEAF

leave–tak•ing /ˈliːvˌteɪkɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-ings** *formal* : an act of going away and saying goodbye [*count*] He announced his *leave-taking* [=*departure*] this morning. ▪ The movie ended with an emotional *leave-taking*. [=*farewell*] [*noncount*] *Leave-taking* is always difficult for her.

leav•ings /ˈliːvɪŋz/ *noun* [*plural*] *old-fashioned* : things that remain after an activity is finished ▪ the *leavings* [=*remnants*] of our dinner

lech•er /ˈlɛʧɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *disapproving* : a man who shows an excessive or disgusting interest in sex ▪ a dirty *lecher*

– **lech•ery** /ˈlɛʧəri/ *noun* [*noncount*]

lech•er•ous /ˈlɛʧərəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *disapproving* : having or showing an excessive or disgusting interest in sex ▪ a *lecherous* old man

lec•tern /ˈlɛktɚn/ *noun, pl* **-terns** [*count*] : a stand that holds a book, notes, etc., for someone who is reading, speaking, or teaching

¹lec•ture /ˈlɛkʧɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tures** [*count*]

1 : a talk or speech given to a group of people to teach them about a particular subject ▪ a *lecture* about/on politics ▪ She's planning to give/deliver a series of *lectures* on modern art. ▪ Several hundred people are expected to attend the *lecture*.

2 : a talk that criticizes someone's behavior in an angry or serious way ▪ I came home late and got a *lecture* from my parents. ▪ I gave her a *lecture* about doing better in school.

²lecture *verb* **-tures**; **-tured**; **-tur•ing**

1 [*no obj*] : to give a talk or a series of talks to a group of people to teach them about a particular subject ▪ She *lectures* (to undergraduates) on modern art at the local college. ▪ She *lectures* in art at the local college.

2 [+ *obj*] : to talk to (someone) in an angry or serious way ▪ They *lectured* their children about/on the importance of honesty. ▪ I *lectured* her about doing better in school.

lec•tur•er /ˈlɛkʧɚɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

1 : a person who gives a lecture ▪ We had a guest *lecturer* in class today.

2 a *US* : someone who teaches at a college or university on a temporary basis **b** *Brit* : someone who teaches at a British college or university and ranks below a professor

lec•ture•ship /ˈlɛkʧɚˌʃɪp/ *noun, pl* **-ships** [*count*] *Brit* : a position as a lecturer at a British college or university ▪ He was offered a *lectureship*. ▪ She has a *lectureship* in chemistry.

led *past tense and past participle of* ¹LEAD

LED /ˌɛlˌiːˈdiː/ *noun, pl* **LEDs** [*count*] *technical* : a device that lights up and displays information when electricity passes through it ✧ LEDs are often used to show numbers and words on electronic devices such as digital clocks. *LED* is an abbreviation of "light-emitting diode."

ledge /ˈlɛʤ/ *noun, pl* **ledg•es** [*count*]

1 : a narrow, flat surface that sticks out from a wall ▪ a window *ledge* ▪ birds perched on the *ledge* of a building

2 : a flat rock surface that sticks out from a cliff ▪ a *ledge* on the side of the mountain

led•ger /ˈlɛʤɚ/ *noun, pl* **-gers** [*count*] : a book that a company uses to record information about the money it has paid and received

lee /ˈli:/ *noun* [*singular*] : the side of something that is sheltered from the wind ▪ the *lee* of the ship ▪ on the *lee* (side) of the mountain — see also LEEWARD

leech /ˈli:ʧ/ *noun, pl* **leech•es** [*count*]
1 : a type of worm that attaches itself to the skin of animals and sucks their blood
2 *disapproving* : a person who uses other people for personal gain ▪ a celebrity who is surrounded by *leeches* who only want his money


leech

leek /ˈli:k/ *noun, pl* **leeks** [*count*] : a vegetable that has long green leaves rising from a thick white base and that tastes like a mild onion — see color picture on page C4

leer /ˈliɚ/ *verb* **leers**; **leered**; **leer•ing** [*no obj*] : to look at someone in an evil or unpleasantly sexual way ▪ She complained that some disgusting man was *leering* at her. ▪ He gave her a *leering* look.
– **leer** *noun, pl* **leers** [*count*] ▪ a wicked/sinister *leer*

leery /ˈliri/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : feeling or showing a lack of trust in someone or something ▪ a *leery* attitude ▪ She seemed a little *leery* [=*suspicious*] about/of the proposal. ▪ They were *leery* of their neighbors.

[1]lee•ward /ˈli:wɚd, ˈlu:wɚd/ *adj* : located on the side that is sheltered from the wind ▪ the *leeward* side of the island — compare WINDWARD

[2]leeward *noun* [*noncount*] : the side that is sheltered from the wind : the lee side ▪ We turned the boat to *leeward*. — compare WINDWARD

lee•way /ˈli:ˌweɪ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : freedom to do something the way you want to do it ▪ They give/allow their students *leeway* to try new things. ▪ The new rules allow managers (to have) greater *leeway* in making decisions.
make up (the) leeway *Brit* : to get back into a good position or situation after you have fallen behind ▪ They're so far behind that they have little hope of *making up the leeway* on the leaders. [=of catching up with the leaders]

[1]left /ˈlɛft/ *adj, always used before a noun*
1 a : located on the same side of your body as your heart ▪ He felt a pain in his *left* side. ▪ her *left* hand/leg **b** : done with your left hand ▪ He hit him with a *left* hook to the jaw. — opposite RIGHT
2 : located nearer to the left side of your body than to the right ▪ the *left* side of the street ▪ a chair's *left* arm ▪ taking a *left* turn
two left feet see [1]FOOT

[2]left *adv*
1 a : toward the left ▪ Please move *left*. ▪ She ran *left* and caught the ball. ▪ Taking one step *left*, he fell to the ground. **b** : toward the political Left ▪ a political party that has shifted *left* ▪ His political views are slightly ***left of center***. [=are slightly liberal]
2 *US* : using the left hand ▪ He bats/throws *left*. [=*left-handed*] — opposite RIGHT
left and right *or Brit* ***left, right, and centre*** : in a very quick and uncontrolled way ▪ She has been spending money *left and right*. : in all directions ▪ He was calling out names *left and right*. ▪ The police were stopping cars *left and right*.

[3]left *noun, pl* **lefts**
1 [*noncount*] : a location closer to the left side of your body than to the right : the left side ▪ We read from *left* to right. — often used with *on* ▪ As you come down the street, my house will be *on* your/the *left*. — often used with *to* ▪ Move the picture a little *to* the *left*. ▪ The picture is ***to the left of*** the window.
2 [*count*] : a turn or movement toward the left ▪ Go to the next intersection and take a *left*. = (*US*) Go to the next intersection and make/hang a *left*. ▪ You'll take two *lefts* and then a right.
3 [*count*] : a punch made with the left hand ▪ He hit him with two quick *lefts* to the stomach followed by a right to the jaw.
4 a *the Left* : political groups who favor sharing money and property more equally among the members of a society : political groups who support liberal or socialist policies ▪ His nomination is opposed by *the* country's *Left*. ▪ The new law is disliked by *the Left*. ▪ Members of *the Left* have voiced their opinions on this matter. **b *the left*** : the position of people who support the beliefs and policies of the political Left ▪ The party has shifted to *the left*. [=has become more liberal] — compare RIGHT; see also *the far left* at [2]FAR

[4]left *past tense and past participle of* [1]LEAVE

left field *noun* [*noncount*] : the part of a baseball outfield that is to the left when you are looking out from home plate ▪ a fly ball to (deep/shallow) *left field*; *also* : the position of the player defending left field ▪ He plays *left field*.
come out of left field *US, informal* : to be very surprising and unexpected ▪ That question *came out of left field*.
out in left field *US, informal* : very strange or unusual ▪ ideas that are *out in left field* ▪ Her position is way *out in left field*.
– **left fielder** *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] ▪ a good *left fielder*

left–hand /ˈlɛftˈhænd/ *adj, always used before a noun*
1 : located closer to your left hand : located on the left side ▪ Our building will be on the *left-hand* side. ▪ Please write your name on the upper *left-hand* corner of the page. ▪ Take a *left-hand* turn. — compare RIGHT-HAND
2 : made for the left hand ▪ a *left-hand* glove ▪ *left-hand* [=(more commonly) *left-handed*] tools — compare RIGHT-HAND

left–hand•ed /ˈlɛftˈhændəd/ *adj*
1 : using the left hand more easily than the right hand ▪ a *left-handed* person ▪ He is baseball's greatest *left-handed* pitcher. ▪ My sister is right-handed but I'm *left-handed*.
2 a : made for the left hand ▪ a *left-handed* glove ▪ She needs *left-handed* scissors. **b** : using or done with the left hand ▪ a *left-handed* catch/punch
3 : swinging from the left side of the body to the right side in sports like baseball and golf ▪ a *left-handed* batter/hitter
– **left–handed** *adv* ▪ She bats *left-handed*. – **left–hand•ed•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ They study *left-handedness* in children.

left–hand•er /ˈlɛftˈhændɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a left-handed person; *especially* : a left-handed pitcher in baseball ▪ The team has eight right-handers and three *left-handers*.

left•ist /ˈlɛftɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] : a person who belongs to or supports the political Left — compare RIGHTIST
– **leftist** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ a *leftist* government ▪ *leftist* intellectuals

left•over /ˈlɛftˌoʊvɚ/ *noun, pl* **-overs**
1 ***leftovers*** [*plural*] : food that has not been finished at a meal and that is often served at another meal ▪ Are we having *leftovers* again?
2 [*count*] : a thing that remains after something is finished or ended ▪ The law is a *leftover* from earlier times.
– **leftover** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ Do you have any *leftover* pizza from last night?

left•ward (*chiefly US*) /ˈlɛftwɚd/ *or chiefly Brit* **left•wards** /ˈlɛftwɚdz/ *adv* : toward the left ▪ Turn the boat *leftward*. ▪ She stepped *leftward* into the light. ▪ She has moved *leftward* in her political beliefs. — compare RIGHTWARD
– **leftward** *adj* ▪ a *leftward* turn

left wing *noun* [*singular*] : the part of a political group that consists of people who support liberal or socialist ideas and policies : the part of a political group that belongs to or supports the Left ▪ His nomination is supported by the party's *left wing* but opposed by the right wing.

left–wing /ˈlɛftˈwɪŋ/ *adj* : of, relating to, or belonging to the political Left : having or supporting ideas and policies that are associated with liberal or socialist groups ▪ *left-wing* politics/politicians
– **left–wing•er** /ˈlɛftˈwɪŋɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ a policy opposed by *left-wingers*

lefty /ˈlɛfti/ *noun, pl* **left•ies** [*count*] *informal*
1 *chiefly US* : LEFT-HANDER ▪ Our starting pitcher is a *lefty*. — compare RIGHTY
2 *chiefly Brit, disapproving* : a person who supports liberal or socialist political policies : LEFTIST ▪ political *lefties* [=*left-wingers*]

[1]leg /ˈlɛg/ *noun, pl* **legs**
1 [*count*] : one of the long body parts that are used especially for standing, walking, and running ▪ He sat on a chair with his *legs* crossed. ▪ He leaned against the wall with his *legs* spread so the police could search him. ▪ She broke her *leg* in a skiing accident. ▪ His *legs* gave way under him and he fell over. ▪ a wooden/artificial *leg* ▪ the dog's front/back/hind *legs* — see picture at HUMAN; see also PEG LEG, SEA LEGS
2 : an animal's leg when it is used as food [*count*] We had chicken *legs* for dinner. [*noncount*] Would you like some more *leg* of lamb?
3 [*count*] : any one of the long thin parts that support a table, chair, etc. ▪ the *legs* of a table ▪ a chair with a broken *leg*
4 [*count*] : the part of a pair of pants that covers the leg ▪ The *legs* of these jeans are too long. = These jeans are too long in the *leg(s)*.

5 [*count*] **a :** a part of a journey or race ▪ She took the lead in the last *leg* of the race. ▪ The weather got worse on each *leg* of the trip. **b :** any one of several events or games that form a competition ▪ a horse that has won the first two *legs* of racing's Triple Crown

6 *legs* [*plural*] *US, informal* **:** lasting appeal or interest ▪ a news story with *legs*

a leg up *informal* **1 *give someone a leg up* a :** to hold your hands together so that someone can step into them while climbing up onto something ▪ I don't think I can get on this horse without help. Can someone *give me a leg up*? **b :** to give someone an advantage over others ▪ These skills will *give you a leg up* in the job market. [=they will help you get a job] **2 *have a leg up* :** to have an advantage over others ▪ The company *has a leg up* on the competition thanks to the recent publicity.

an arm and a leg see ¹ARM

break a leg *informal* — used in speech to wish good luck to someone (such as a performer)

get your leg over *Brit, informal + impolite, of a man* **:** to have sex with a woman

not have a leg to stand on **:** to have no support for what you think, say, or do ▪ He claims that the company cheated him, but without evidence of a written agreement, he *doesn't have a leg to stand on*.

on your/its last legs *informal* **:** very close to failure, exhaustion, or death ▪ The company is *on its last legs*. ▪ He was *on his last legs*, but he managed to finish the race. ▪ an old tree that is *on its last legs* [=that is dying and will not last much longer]

pull someone's leg *informal* **:** to make someone believe something that is not true as a joke **:** to trick or lie to someone in a playful way ▪ I panicked when he said the test was tomorrow, but then I realized he was just *pulling my leg*. ▪ When I got mad, she finally admitted that she was *pulling my leg*.

shake a leg *informal* **:** to go or move quickly ▪ You'd better *shake a leg* [=*hurry up*] if you don't want to be late for work. — often used as a command ▪ *Shake a leg*! You're going to be late!

stretch your legs *informal* **:** to stand up and walk especially after sitting for a long period of time

with your tail between your legs see ¹TAIL

²leg *verb* **legs; legged; leg·ging**

leg it *chiefly Brit, informal* **:** to run fast especially in order to get away from someone or something ▪ When they saw the police car, they *legged it*.

leg out [*phrasal verb*] ***leg out (a hit)*** *also* ***leg (a hit) out*** *baseball, informal* **:** to successfully complete (a hit) by running fast ▪ He hurt his knee while trying to *leg out* an infield hit. ▪ She *legged out* a triple.

leg·a·cy /'lɛgəsi/ *noun, pl* **-cies** [*count*]

1 : something (such as property or money) that is received from someone who has died ▪ She left us a *legacy* of a million dollars. ▪ a substantial *legacy*

2 : something that happened in the past or that comes from someone in the past ▪ He left his children a *legacy* of love and respect. ▪ The war left a *legacy of* pain and suffering. ▪ We discussed the country's *legacy* of slavery. [=the ways in which the country is still affected by slavery] ▪ Her artistic *legacy* lives on through her children.

le·gal /'li:gəl/ *adj*

1 a : of or relating to the law ▪ She has a lot of *legal* problems. ▪ *legal* books ▪ a *legal* adviser/representative ▪ a country's *legal* system [=the way that laws are made and controlled in a country] **b :** based on the law ▪ Do you know your *legal* rights? ▪ The amount of alcohol in his blood exceeded the *legal* limit. ▪ He plans on taking ***legal action*** against the company. [=he plans on having a court of law settle his argument with the company] ▪ ***legal proceedings*** [=actions taken to settle an argument in a court of law]

2 : allowed by the law or by the rules in a game ▪ What you did was not *legal*. ▪ "Is it *legal* to fish in this river?" "Yes, it's perfectly *legal*." ▪ The referee said it was a *legal* play.

— opposite ILLEGAL

– le·gal·i·ty /lɪ'gælәti/ *noun, pl* **-ties** [*noncount*] They were unsure about the contract's *legality*. ▪ We questioned the *legality* [=*lawfulness*] of the testing. [*count*] We discussed the complex *legalities* involved in buying and selling a home.

– le·gal·ly /'li:gәli/ *adv* ▪ *Legally*, they cannot do that. ▪ The drug is *legally* bought and sold in many countries. ▪ This agreement is *legally* binding. ▪ He is *legally* blind. [=his vision is bad enough for him to be considered blind according to the law] ▪ He was *legally* drunk. [=he was drunk according to the law]

legal aid *noun* [*noncount*] **:** money provided by a special organization to pay legal fees for people who cannot pay them themselves

le·gal·ese /ˌli:gə'li:z/ *noun* [*noncount*] *informal* **:** the language used by lawyers that is difficult for most people to understand **:** legal jargon ▪ I was confused by the *legalese* in the contract.

legal holiday *noun, pl* **~ -days** [*count*] *US* **:** a public holiday recognized by law — called also (*Brit*) *bank holiday*

le·gal·is·tic /ˌli:gə'lɪstɪk/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *disapproving* **:** too concerned with legal rules and details ▪ He has a narrow *legalistic* view of the controversy. ▪ The two sides in the dispute have been engaging in *legalistic* wrangling.

le·gal·ize *also Brit* **le·gal·ise** /'li:gəˌlaɪz/ *verb* **-iz·es; -ized; -iz·ing** [+ *obj*] **:** to make (something) legal ▪ They wanted to *legalize* gambling in their city. **:** to allow (something) by law ▪ The government has *legalized* the use of the new drug.

— opposite CRIMINALIZE

– le·gal·i·za·tion *also Brit* **le·gal·i·sa·tion** /ˌli:gәlә'zeɪʃәn, *Brit* ˌligəˌlaɪ'zeɪʃәn/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *legalization* of a drug

legal pad *noun, pl* **~ pads** [*count*] **:** a pad of yellow paper with lines on it for writing

legal tender *noun* [*noncount*] **:** money that the law allows people to use for paying debts ▪ Soon after France adopted the euro, the French franc ceased to be *legal tender*.

leg·ate /'lɛgәt/ *noun, pl* **-ates** [*count*] **:** an official representative sent to a foreign country; *especially* **:** an official representative of the pope ▪ a papal *legate*

leg·a·tee /ˌlɛgə'ti:/ *noun, pl* **-tees** [*count*] *law* **:** someone who receives money or property from a person who has died

le·ga·tion /lɪ'geɪʃәn/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*] **:** a group of government officials sent to work in a foreign country; *also* **:** the building where such a group works

le·ga·to /lɪ'gɑ:ˌtoʊ/ *adv, music* **:** in a manner that is smooth and flowing ▪ singing/playing *legato* — compare STACCATO

– legato *adj* ▪ a *legato* musical passage

leg·end /'lɛʤәnd/ *noun, pl* **-ends**

1 : a story from the past that is believed by many people but cannot be proved to be true [*count*] I don't believe the *legends* I've heard about this forest. ▪ the *legend* of a lost continent [*noncount*] ***According to legend***, the city was destroyed by a great flood in ancient times. = ***Legend has it*** that the city was destroyed by a great flood in ancient times. — see also URBAN LEGEND

2 [*count*] **:** a famous or important person who is known for doing something extremely well ▪ He has become a baseball *legend*. ▪ a guitar-playing *legend* ▪ She is ***a legend in her own time***. = She is ***a living legend***. [=she has become a legend while still living]

3 [*count*] **a :** a list that explains the symbols on a map **b** *formal* **:** the writing that appears on an object ▪ The gravestone bears the *legend* "Rest in Peace."

leg·end·ary /'lɛʤәnˌderi, *Brit* 'lɛʤәndri/ *adj*

1 *always used before a noun* **:** told about in a legend ▪ *legendary* tales ▪ *legendary* creatures from the sea

2 [*more ~; most ~*] **:** very famous or well-known ▪ He is the most *legendary* football player of his time. ▪ *legendary* musicians

leg·er·de·main /ˌlɛʤәdə'meɪn/ *noun* [*noncount*] **:** skill in using your hands to perform magic tricks **:** SLEIGHT OF HAND — often used figuratively ▪ financial *legerdemain* [=*trickery*]

leg·ged /'lɛgәd/ *adj* **:** having legs of a specified type or number — usually used in combination with another adjective ▪ a four-*legged* animal ▪ a long-*legged* bird

leg·gings /'lɛgɪŋz/ *noun* [*plural*]

1 : pants for women that are made of a material that stretches to fit tightly around the legs — see color picture on page C13

2 : coverings for the legs that are usually made of cloth or leather and worn over pants

leg·gy /'lɛgi/ *adj* **leg·gi·er; -est**

1 : having long legs — used especially of a woman ▪ a *leggy* actress

2 *of a plant* **:** having very long stalks or stems ▪ The bush has gotten *leggy* and needs to be pruned.

leg·i·ble /'lɛʤәbәl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] **:** capable of being read **:** clear enough to be read ▪ *legible* handwriting ▪ The

document is not *legible*. — opposite ILLEGIBLE
– **leg•i•bil•i•ty** /ˌlɛʤəˈbɪlətiː/ *noun* [*noncount*] – **leg•i•bly** /ˈlɛʤəbliː/ *adv* ▪ He doesn't write *legibly* at all.

[1]le•gion /ˈliːʤən/ *noun, pl* **-gions** [*count*]
1 a : a large group of soldiers in ancient Rome ▪ a Roman *legion* **b** : a large group of soldiers : ARMY — used especially in names ▪ the French Foreign *Legion*
2 : a national organization for former soldiers — used in names ▪ the American *Legion* ▪ the Royal British *Legion*
3 : a very large number of people ▪ She has a *legion* [=*multitude*] of admirers/fans. ▪ *Legions* of people came to see him perform.

[2]legion *adj, not used before a noun* : very many or numerous ▪ Her admirers/fans are *legion*. [=she has a very large number of admirers/fans]

le•gion•ary /ˈliːʤəˌneriː, *Brit* ˈliːʤənəriː/ *noun, pl* **-ar•ies** [*count*] : a soldier who is a member of a legion
– **legionary** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ *legionary* soldiers ▪ a Roman *legionary* camp

le•gion•naire /ˌliːʤəˈneɚ/ *noun, pl* **-naires** [*count*] : a member of a legion (such as the French Foreign Legion, the Royal British Legion, or the American Legion)

Legionnaires' disease *also* **Legionnaire's disease** *noun* [*noncount*] : a serious disease of the lungs that is caused by bacteria

leg•is•late /ˈlɛʤəˌsleɪt/ *verb* **-lates**; **-lat•ed**; **-lat•ing**
1 : to make laws [*no obj*] The state *legislated* against hunting certain animals. [=the state created laws making it illegal to hunt certain animals] [+ *obj*] *legislate* a new law
2 [+ *obj*] : to control, create, or cause (something) by making laws ▪ They are attempting to *legislate* morality. ▪ the need to better *legislate* foreign trade ▪ trying to *legislate* changes in the current law

leg•is•la•tion /ˌlɛʤəˈsleɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : a law or set of laws made by a government ▪ They passed new state *legislation* this week. ▪ Two new pieces of *legislation* are being considered. ▪ She introduced/proposed *legislation* for protecting the environment. ▪ More *legislation* is needed on this matter. ▪ Certain animals are protected under/by state *legislation*. ▪ The *legislation* was vetoed/repealed. ▪ anti-gun *legislation*
2 : the action or process of making laws ▪ One of the important functions of government is *legislation*.

leg•is•la•tive /ˈlɛʤəˌsleɪtɪv, *Brit* ˈlɛʤəslətɪv/ *adj, always used before a noun*
1 : having the power to make laws ▪ the state *legislative* body/assembly [=the group in a state government that makes laws] ▪ the *legislative* branch of the government — compare EXECUTIVE, JUDICIAL
2 : relating to the making of laws ▪ She is interested in the *legislative* process. ▪ *legislative* power
– **leg•is•la•tive•ly** *adv*

leg•is•la•tor /ˈlɛʤəˌsleɪˌtoɚ, ˈlɛʤəˌsleɪtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*] : a person who makes laws : a member of a legislature ▪ Write to your state *legislator*. ▪ *Legislators* [=*lawmakers*] in both parties have supported the idea.

leg•is•la•ture /ˈlɛʤəˌsleɪʧɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tures** [*count*] : a group of people with the power to make or change laws ▪ Our *legislature* passed a law requiring people to wear safety belts. ▪ Each state has its own *legislature*. ▪ state *legislatures*

le•git /lɪˈʤɪt/ *adj, informal* : [1]LEGITIMATE ▪ What she's doing is perfectly *legit*. ▪ Is this deal *legit*? ▪ All I want is a *legit* chance to succeed.

[1]le•git•i•mate /lɪˈʤɪtəmət/ *adj*
1 a : allowed according to rules or laws ▪ a *legitimate* [=*legal, lawful*] heir/government/business ▪ *legitimate* means for achieving success ▪ the *legitimate* use of firearms **b** : real, accepted, or official ▪ It's not clear that the letter is *legitimate* [=*genuine*]; it may be a forgery.
2 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : fair or reasonable ▪ We think her concern/excuse is *legitimate*. = We think she has a *legitimate* concern/excuse. ▪ There's no *legitimate* reason for prescribing this medication to a child. ▪ His claim is *legitimate*.
3 : born to a father and mother who are married ▪ *legitimate* children — opposite ILLEGITIMATE
– **le•git•i•ma•cy** /lɪˈʤɪtəməsiː/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ Many question the *legitimacy* of the law. – **le•git•i•mate•ly** *adv* ▪ We earned the money *legitimately*. [=*legally*] ▪ He can *legitimately* [=*rightfully*] claim to be the best athlete in his class.

[2]le•git•i•mate /lɪˈʤɪtəˌmeɪt/ *verb* **-mates**; **-mat•ed**; **-mating** [+ *obj*] *US* : to make (something or someone) legitimate: such as **a** : to make (something) real, accepted, or official ▪ slang words *legitimated* by usage **b** : to show that (something or someone) is fair or reasonable ▪ Her tendency to be secretive only serves to *legitimate* their suspicions.

le•git•i•ma•tize /lɪˈʤɪtəməˌtaɪz/ *verb* **-tiz•es**; **-tized**; **-tizing** [+ *obj*] *chiefly US* : [2]LEGITIMATE

le•git•i•mize /lɪˈʤɪtəˌmaɪz/ *also Brit* **le•git•i•mise** *verb* **-miz•es**; **-mized**; **-miz•ing** [+ *obj*] : [2]LEGITIMATE

leg•less /ˈlegləs/ *adj*
1 : having no legs ▪ a *legless* lizard ▪ broken, *legless* chairs
2 *Brit slang* : extremely drunk ▪ get *legless* on lager

leg•room /ˈlɛgˌruːm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : space in which you can extend your legs when you are sitting ▪ I need a car with more *legroom*. ▪ airplane seats that offer little *legroom* — compare HEADROOM

leg•ume /ˈlɛˌgjuːm/ *noun, pl* **-umes** [*count*] : a type of plant (such as a pea or a bean plant) with seeds that grow in long cases (called pods); *also* : these seeds eaten as food ▪ recipes that include *legumes* like lentils and chickpeas
– **le•gu•mi•nous** /lɪˈgjuːmənəs/ *adj* ▪ *leguminous* plants

leg warmer *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] : a warm covering of usually soft cloth that you wear on your leg

leg•work /ˈlɛgˌwɚk/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the active physical work that is involved in doing something ▪ I wrote the article myself, but my assistant gathered the information and did most of the other *legwork*.

lei /ˈleɪ/ *noun, pl* **leis** [*count*] : a necklace of flowers that is given to a visitor in Hawaii

lei•sure /ˈliːʒɚ, *Brit* ˈlɛʒə/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : time when you are not working : time when you can do whatever you want to do ▪ In his *leisure* [=*free time, spare time*], he paints and sculpts. ▪ I'd like to write more, but I simply don't have the *leisure* (to do it).
2 : enjoyable activities that you do when you are not working ▪ I don't have much time for *leisure*. ▪ She leads ***a life of leisure*** [=she does not have to work] ▪ a character described as ***a lady/man/gentleman of leisure*** [=a woman/man who does not work and who spends a lot of time doing things for pleasure] — often used before another noun ▪ *leisure* activities/pursuits ▪ Now that she's retired, she has more ***leisure time*** ▪ the ***leisure class*** [=people who do not have to work]
at leisure *or* ***at your leisure*** **1** : in a way that is not hurried : in a slow and relaxed way ▪ We were able to study the menu *at leisure*. **2** : when you have free time available ▪ You can look over the contract *at your leisure*.

lei•sured /ˈliːʒɚd, *Brit* ˈlɛʒəd/ *adj, always used before a noun* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : not having to work : having leisure ▪ the *leisured* class
2 : not hurried ▪ We set off at a *leisured* [=(more commonly) *leisurely*] pace.

lei•sure•ly /ˈliːʒɚliː, *Brit* ˈlɛʒəliː/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not hurried : slow and relaxed ▪ They strolled along at a *leisurely* pace. ▪ proceeding in a *leisurely* fashion ▪ After a *leisurely* lunch, we went to see a movie.
– **leisurely** *adv* ▪ a restaurant where diners are allowed to eat *leisurely*

leisure suit *noun, pl* ~ **suits** [*count*] : an informal suit that includes a jacket and matching pants

leit•mo•tiv *or* **leit•mo•tif** /ˈlaɪtmoʊˌtiːf/ *noun, pl* **-tivs** *or* **-tifs** [*count*] : something (such as a short piece of music, an idea, or a phrase) that is repeated many times throughout an opera, book, story, etc. ▪ Troubled relationships are the *leitmotiv* of this novel.

lem•ming /ˈlɛmɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-mings** [*count*] : a small animal that lives in northern areas of North America, Europe, and Asia ✧ Lemmings sometimes form large groups that move together. According to legend, these groups sometimes march into the sea, where large numbers of the lemmings drown. Because of this, people are sometimes said to be acting ***like lemmings*** when they do something that is harmful or stupid because other people are doing it.

lem•on /ˈlɛmən/ *noun, pl* **-ons**
1 [*count, noncount*] : a yellow citrus fruit that has a sour taste ▪ The recipe calls for the juice of two *lemons*. ▪ Garnish it with a slice of *lemon*. — often used before another noun ▪ *lemon* juice ▪ *lemon* trees ▪ a *lemon* grove — see color picture on page C5
2 [*noncount*] : a bright yellow color — called also *lemon yellow*; see color picture on page C2
3 [*count*] *chiefly US, informal* : a product that is not made well : a product that does not work the way it should ▪ Our new car is a *lemon*.

4 [*count*] *Brit, informal* : a stupid or silly person
– **lem•ony** /ˈlɛməni/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ a *lemony* flavor ▪ a *lemony* color

lem•on•ade /ˌlɛməˈneɪd/ *noun, pl* **-ades** [*count, noncount*]
1 : a drink made usually of lemon juice, sugar, and water
2 *Brit* : a sweet lemon-flavored drink that contains many bubbles : a lemon soda

lemon curd *noun* [*noncount*] : a sweet, soft food made with lemon juice, butter, sugar, and eggs

lemon law *noun, pl* ~ **laws** [*count*] *US* : a law that gives a person who buys a car that has a defect the right to return the car or to have the seller pay to have it fixed

lemon yellow *noun* [*noncount*] : LEMON 2

le•mur /ˈliːmɚ/ *noun, pl* **-murs** [*count*] : an animal that is related to monkeys and that lives in trees mostly in Madagascar

lend /ˈlɛnd/ *verb* **lends**; **lent** /ˈlɛnt/; **lend•ing**
1 a [+ *obj*] : to give (something) to (someone) to be used for a period of time and then returned ▪ She often *lends* us books. = She often *lends* books to us. ▪ Could you *lend* me your pen? [=could I borrow your pen?] ▪ I *lent* our ladder to the neighbors. **b** : to give (money) to someone who agrees to pay it back in the future [+ *obj*] Can you *lend* me 50 cents? [=can I borrow 50 cents from you?] ▪ The bank wouldn't *lend* us the money. [*no obj*] Many banks won't *lend* to people with bad credit.
2 [+ *obj*] : to make (something) available to (someone or something) ▪ They offered to *lend* us their services. [=to provide us with their services] ▪ They are glad to *lend* their support to worthy causes. ▪ It's surprising that he would ***lend his name*** to such a venture. [=that he would allow his name to be associated with such a venture]
3 [+ *obj*] **a** : to add (something that is needed or wanted) to (something) ▪ A bit of grated carrot *lends* some color to the dish. = A bit of grated carrot *lends* the dish some color. ▪ A growing amount of evidence ***lends weight/credence/credibility*** to their theory. [=makes their theory seem true or correct] **b** : to provide (something that is needed or wanted) ▪ She's always there to ***lend a (helping) hand***. [=she's always there to help]
lend an ear see ¹EAR
lend itself to ✧ Something that *lends itself to* a purpose is good or suitable for that purpose. ▪ Her voice *lends itself* well *to* (singing) opera. ▪ The topics *lend themselves to* classroom discussion.
– **lend•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ banks and other *lenders* ▪ borrowers and *lenders* — see also MONEYLENDER

lending library *noun, pl* ~ **-ries** [*count*] : a library that lends books to people who can take them home and then return them at a later time

length /ˈlɛŋθ/ *noun, pl* **lengths**
1 a : the distance from one end of something to the other end : a measurement of how long something is [*noncount*] "What is its *length*?" [=how long is it?] "It measures 10 inches in *length*." [=it is 10 inches long] ▪ We walked the entire *length* of the beach. [=we walked from one end of the beach to the other] ▪ The *length* of the table is six feet, and its width is three feet. [*count*] These pins are available in one- and two-inch *lengths*. ▪ The adult animals reach a maximum *length* of two meters. — see also FOCAL LENGTH **b** [*noncount*] : the size or extent of a piece of writing ▪ Your essay should be no more than 250 words in *length*. ▪ five pages in *length* [=five pages long] ▪ a book-*length* poem [=a very long poem; a poem that has the same number of pages as some books] **c** [*noncount*] : the quality or state of being long ▪ Don't be put off by the book's *length*. [=(less commonly) *lengthiness*] ▪ I was amazed by the *length* of the ape's arms. [=by how long the ape's arms were]
2 [*noncount*] : the amount of time something lasts ▪ They want to extend the *length* of the school year. [=to make the school year longer; to lengthen the school year] ▪ the *length* of a movie ▪ If you're in town ***for any length of time*** [=for more than just a short time], be sure to see the museum.
3 [*count*] : the length of something used as a unit of measure ▪ Our horse won the race by a *length*. [=by a distance equal to the length of one horse] ▪ They were two car *lengths* behind us. ▪ I managed to swim four *lengths* of the pool. [=to swim from one end of the pool to the other end four times] — see also *at arm's length* at ¹ARM
4 [*count*] : a piece of something that is long and thin or narrow ▪ a *length* of pipe/chain/yarn
5 [*noncount*] : a measure of how far down on your body something (such as your hair or a piece of clothing) reaches ▪ the *length* of a skirt ▪ a waist-*length* jacket [=a jacket that reaches only to your waist] ▪ chin-*length* hair — see also FLOOR-LENGTH, KNEE-LENGTH, SHOULDER-LENGTH
at length **1** : for a long time ▪ We talked *at length* about the ceremony. ▪ The speaker went on ***at considerable/great/some length***. ▪ No one was questioned ***at any length*** about it. [=no one was questioned for a long period of time] **2** : in a full or complete way ▪ The topic will be treated *at length* in the next chapter. ▪ The book doesn't discuss the topic ***at any length***. [=the book only discusses the topic briefly] **3** *literary* : after a long time ▪ *At length* [=*finally, in the end, at last*], we decided to return home.
go to any length *or* ***go to any/extreme/great (etc.) lengths*** : to make a great or extreme effort to do something ▪ She'll *go to any length* to avoid doing work. = She'll *go to any lengths* to avoid doing work. ▪ He *went to great lengths* to learn the truth.
the length and breadth of : through all parts of (a place) ▪ I've been/traveled *the length and breadth of* the canyon, but I still haven't found the caves I'm looking for.

length•en /ˈlɛŋθən/ *verb* **-ens**; **-ened**; **-en•ing**
1 [*no obj*] : to become longer ▪ The days *lengthened* with the approach of spring.
2 [+ *obj*] : to make (something) longer ▪ Proper care will *lengthen* the life of the engine. ▪ *lengthen* a pair of trousers — opposite SHORTEN

length•ways /ˈlɛŋθˌweɪz/ *adv, chiefly Brit* : LENGTHWISE
– **lengthways** *adj*

length•wise /ˈlɛŋθˌwaɪz/ *adv* : in the direction of the long side of something ▪ Split the fruit *lengthwise* and discard the seeds. ▪ a piece of paper folded *lengthwise*
– **lengthwise** *adj* ▪ a *lengthwise* cut

lengthy /ˈlɛŋθi/ *adj* **length•i•er**; **-est** [*also more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : lasting for a long time ▪ The process is both *lengthy* and costly. ▪ We got involved in a *lengthy* [=*long*] discussion. ▪ a series of *lengthy* delays ▪ *Lengthier* trips require more planning.
2 : having many pages, items, etc. ▪ a *lengthy* criminal record ▪ *lengthy* [=*long*] lists
– **length•i•ly** /ˈlɛŋθəli/ *adv* ▪ a *lengthily* titled book [=a book with a long title] ▪ She complained loudly and *lengthily* [=*at length*] about the poor service. – **length•i•ness** /ˈlɛŋθinəs/ *noun* [*noncount*]

le•nient /ˈliːnjənt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : allowing a lot of freedom and not punishing bad behavior in a strong way : not harsh, severe, or strict ▪ a teacher who is *lenient* with students who have misbehaved ▪ a *lenient* teacher ▪ a *lenient* sentence/punishment/policy ▪ Many people felt that the punishment was too *lenient*.
– **le•nien•cy** /ˈliːnjənsi/ *also* **le•nience** /ˈliːnjəns/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *leniency* of the punishment – **le•nient•ly** *adv*

lens /ˈlɛnz/ *noun, pl* **lens•es** [*count*]
1 : a clear curved piece of glass or plastic that is used in eyeglasses, cameras, telescopes, etc., to make things look clearer, smaller, or bigger ▪ glasses with thick *lenses* ▪ a camera *lens* ▪ Make sure the *lens* of the microscope is clean. — see picture at CAMERA; see also CONTACT LENS, FISH-EYE LENS, OBJECTIVE LENS, TELEPHOTO LENS, ZOOM LENS
2 : the clear part of the eye that focuses light to form clear images

lent *past tense and past participle of* LEND

Lent /ˈlɛnt/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a period of 40 days before Easter during which many Christians do not eat certain foods or do certain pleasurable activities as a way of remembering the suffering of Jesus Christ
– **Lent•en** /ˈlɛntn̩/ *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ the *Lenten* season

len•til /ˈlɛnt|/ *noun, pl* **-tils** [*count*] : a type of flat, round seed that is related to the pea and is eaten as a vegetable — often used before another noun ▪ *lentil* soup

Leo /ˈliːˌoʊ/ *noun, pl* **Leos**
1 [*noncount*] : the fifth sign of the zodiac that comes between Cancer and Virgo and has a lion as its symbol — see picture at ZODIAC
2 [*count*] : a person born under the sign of Leo : a person born between July 23rd and August 22nd ▪ Are you a *Leo* or a Virgo?

le•o•nine /ˈliːjəˌnaɪn/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *literary* : of, relating to, or resembling a lion ▪ a *leonine* mane of hair ▪ *leonine* strength

leop•ard /ˈlɛpəd/ *noun, pl* **-ards** [*count*] : a large brownish-yellow cat with black spots that lives in Asia and Africa — see picture at CAT

a leopard can't change its spots — used to say that people cannot change their basic personalities, habits, etc.

leop•ard•ess /ˈlɛpədəs/ *noun, pl* **-ess•es** [*count*] : a female leopard

le•o•tard /ˈliːjəˌtɑəd/ *noun, pl* **-tards** [*count*] : a piece of clothing that fits tightly and covers the body except for the legs and sometimes the arms • Our aerobics instructor wore a bright red *leotard*. — often plural in U.S. English • She donned her *leotards* and headed off to ballet class. — see color picture on page C13

lep•er /ˈlɛpə/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

1 : a person who has leprosy

2 : someone who is disliked and avoided by other people • After his arrest his former friends treated him like a (social) *leper*.

lep•re•chaun /ˈlɛprəˌkɑːn/ *noun, pl* **-chauns** [*count*] : a creature in old Irish stories that looks like a very small man ✧ According to legend, if you catch a leprechaun he will show you where treasure is hidden.

lep•ro•sy /ˈlɛprəsi/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : a serious disease that causes painful rough areas on the skin and that badly damages nerves and flesh

– **leprous** *adj*

les•bi•an /ˈlɛzbijən/ *noun, pl* **-ans** [*count*] : a woman who is sexually attracted to other women : a female homosexual • *lesbians* and gay men

– **lesbian** *adj, always used before a noun* • a *lesbian* relationship – **les•bi•an•ism** /ˈlɛzbijəˌnɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*]

le•sion /ˈliːʒən/ *noun, pl* **-sions** [*count*] *medical* : an injured or diseased spot or area on or in the body • skin *lesions* • a brain *lesion*

[1]less /ˈlɛs/ *adj, comparative form of* [1]LITTLE : not so much : smaller in amount or number • We need *less* talk and more work! • She finished in *less* time than I did. • *Less* detail is sometimes better than more detail. • 8 times 2 is *less* than 6 times 3. • We made it there in *less* than six hours. • The whole procedure takes *less* than five minutes. • The illness affects *less* than one percent of the population.

no less — used to suggest that something is surprising or impressive • He insists on being driven to the airport, and in a limousine *no less*! [=it is surprising that he insists on being driven in a limousine] • She was contacted by the president, *no less*! • The plan was approved by *no less* (of) an authority than the president himself.

no less than : at least — used to suggest that a number or amount is surprisingly large • *No less than* half the students failed the test. • She has had *no less than* [=*no fewer than*] a dozen job offers.

> ***usage*** The adjectives *less* and *fewer* have similar meanings but are used in slightly different ways. *Fewer* is used with nouns that can be counted. • classrooms with *fewer* students • They have *fewer* than three children. *Less* is usually used with nouns that cannot be counted. • He makes *less* money than she does. • The new model uses *less* power. But *less* is also more likely than *fewer* to be used with count nouns that refer to distances and amounts of money. • an investment of *less* than $2,000 • It's *less* than 100 miles away. *Less* is also used in mathematical expressions and in certain phrases. • an angle of *less* than 180 degrees • Write it in 25 words or *less*. It is also used instead of *fewer* with other sorts of plural nouns, although many people still consider this use incorrect. • *Less* than 10 people showed up. = *Fewer* than 10 people showed up.

[2]less *adv, comparative form of* [2]LITTLE : not so much : to a smaller extent or degree • This test seemed much *less* difficult than the last one. • Which test is the *less* difficult of the two? • The test is no *less* difficult for being shorter. [=even though the test is shorter, it is not easier] • Do you have another one that's *less* expensive? • a *less* likely possibility • She visits much/far *less* often than she used to. • They're focusing more on quality and *less* on quantity. • I like this one (a little) *less* than the other. • Their band is *less* concerned with making music than with making money. • The cost is much/far *less* (of) a problem than we thought it would be.

in less than no time *informal* : very soon • If we get started now, we'll be finished *in less than no time*.

less and less : in a way that is gradually smaller, weaker, or less common • The medicine becomes *less and less* [=*decreasingly*] effective over time. • We see them *less and less* each year. = We see them *less and less* frequently/often each year.

less than : not completely or not at all • She was *less than* happy with the results. [=she was not entirely happy *or* she was unhappy] • He was *less than* honest in his replies. [=he was not completely honest *or* he was very dishonest]

more or less see [2]MORE

much less *or chiefly Brit* ***still less*** — used after a negative statement to say that something is even less likely or possible than the thing previously mentioned • I don't eat eggs, *much less* meat. • He can't run a mile, *much less* complete a marathon.

[3]less *pronoun*

1 : a smaller number or amount • We've learned to make do with *less*. [=to survive with less money, fewer possessions, etc.] • He's trying to save more and spend *less*. • I have *less* than you do. • I read much/far/even *less* of the second book than of the first. • I seem to save *less* each year. • We had exactly one day to get the job done—no more, no *less*. • *Less* is sometimes better than more. • Regarding his recent behavior, perhaps ***the less said, the better***. [=his recent behavior has been so bad that it is better to not say anything about it]

2 : something that is smaller or less important than another thing • You're lucky you didn't lose your job for swearing at your boss. People have been fired for *less* (than that).

could/couldn't care less see [2]CARE

less and less : an amount that becomes gradually smaller • I seem to save *less and less* each year. • We see *less and less* of them each year.

nothing less than see [2]NOTHING

think less of see [1]THINK

[4]less *prep* : after taking away or subtracting (something) • the regular price *less* [=*minus*] a discount • We earned two hundred dollars, *less* travel expenses.

-less /ləs/ *adj suffix*

1 : not having something specified : without something • child*less* • friend*less* • a cloud*less* sky • my first pain*less* day since leaving the hospital

2 a : never doing or becoming something specified • tire*less* workers [=workers who never become tired] • cease*less* noise [=noise that never ceases] **b** : not able to be acted on in a specified way • a daunt*less* hero [=a hero who cannot be daunted] • count*less* years [=too many years to be counted]

les•see /lɛˈsiː/ *noun, pl* **-sees** [*count*] *law* : a person who has an agreement that allows the use of a car, house, etc., for a period of time in exchange for a payment : a person who has a lease on something — compare LESSOR

less•en /ˈlɛsn̩/ *verb* **-ens**; **-ened**; **-en•ing** : to become less or to cause (something) to become less [*no obj*] The pain will *lessen* [=*decrease*] over time. [+ *obj*] Medication helps *lessen* the severity of the symptoms. • Taking a few simple precautions will *lessen* [=(more commonly) *reduce*] your risk of injury.

[1]less•er /ˈlɛsə/ *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : of smaller size • The winner will receive $100; *lesser* amounts will be given to three runners-up.

2 : of less strength, quality, or importance • A *lesser* man than he might have simply given up. • the artist's *lesser* works • She agreed to plead guilty to a *lesser* charge. — often used in the phrase ***to a lesser degree/extent*** • Traffic congestion is a problem in the city and, *to a lesser extent*, the suburbs. [=it is also a problem in the suburbs, but not as much of a problem as in the city]

lesser evil *or* ***lesser of two evils*** see [2]EVIL

[2]lesser *adv* : [2]LESS • *lesser*-known writers

les•son /ˈlɛsn̩/ *noun, pl* **-sons** [*count*]

1 a : an activity that you do in order to learn something • You can't go out to play until you've finished your *lessons*.; *also* : something that is taught • They studied the *lessons* [=*teachings*] of the great philosophers. **b** : a single class or part of a course of instruction • The book is divided into 12 *lessons*. • *Lesson* 1: Introduction • She took/gave piano *lessons* for years.

2 : something learned through experience • political leaders who have failed to learn the *lessons* of history • I've ***learned my lesson***—I'll never do that again! • We *learned our lesson* the hard way. [=we learned from an unpleasant experience] • I'm glad they got caught. That will ***teach them a lesson***! [=they will learn that they should not do that again] • ***Let that be a lesson to you***—if you don't take better care of your

toys they'll get broken! — see also OBJECT LESSON
3 : a part of the Bible read as part of a church service

les·sor /ˈlɛˌsoɚ/ *noun, pl* **-sors** [*count*] *law* : a person or company that leases property (such as a car or house) to someone — compare LESSEE

lest /ˈlɛst/ *conj, formal + literary*
1 : for fear that — used to say that you do not want something to happen • He was concerned *lest* anyone think that he was guilty. = (*chiefly Brit*) He was concerned *lest* [=*in case*] anyone should think he was guilty. [=he was concerned that people would think he was guilty; he did not want anyone to think he was guilty]
2 — used when you are saying something in order to prevent something from happening • And *lest* you think I'm joking, let me assure you that everything I've said is true. • She's a talented singer and, ***lest we forget***, a fine musician as well. [=we should not forget that she is also a fine musician]

[1]let /ˈlɛt/ *verb* **lets; let; let·ting**
1 [+ *obj*] : to allow or permit (someone or something) to do something • *Let* them go. • I'll be happy to help you if you'll *let* me (help you). • A break in the clouds *let* us see the summit. [=made it possible for us to see the summit] • Don't *let* this opportunity slip away! • *Let* me see the bruise. • I don't believe in *letting* children do whatever they want to do. = I don't believe that people should *let* children do whatever they want to do. • My philosophy is "***Live and let live***." [=live your life as you choose and let other people do the same]

> ***usage*** *Let* is followed by a verb that has the form of the infinitive without *to*. • They *let* him *speak*. [=they allowed/permitted him *to speak*] *Let* is never used as *be let*; use *be allowed* or *be permitted* instead. • They *let* him speak. [=he *was allowed/permitted* by them to speak]

2 [+ *obj*] **a** — used in speech when you are making a polite offer to help someone • *Let* me help you with those packages. [=I would be happy to help you with those packages] • *Let* me do that for you. **b** — used to introduce a polite statement or request • *Let* me begin by saying how happy I am to see you here today. [=I want to begin by saying how happy I am to see you] • Please ***let me know*** [=tell me] what you decide. **c** *formal* — used to introduce a command • "The ambassadors have arrived, your Majesty." "*Let* them not wait a moment longer: *let* them enter at once." • *Let* there be music and laughter! — sometimes used figuratively in a way that is not formal • *Let* it rain all day—I don't care. **d** — used to express a warning • Just *let* her try to do it again! [=she will be in trouble if she tries to do it again]
3 a ✧ ***Let's*** and (more formally) ***let us*** are used to introduce statements that express a wish, request, suggestion, or command. • *Let's* [=*let us*] hope for the best. [=we should hope for the best] • *Let's* imagine what the world would be like with no war. • *Let's* suppose that he's right. What then? • *Let's* get out of here! • *Let us* all remember [=we should all remember] just how much we have to be thankful for. • I'm not calling her a liar. *Let's* just say that she tends to exaggerate the truth a little. • *Let's* see what's on the menu. = *Let's* have a look at the menu. • "*Let's* go, shall we?" [=shall we go?] "Yes, *let's*." • "*Let's* go." "No, *let's* not." • *Let's* not go. = (*Brit*) Don't *let's* go. = (*US, informal*) *Let's* don't go. **b** ✧ The phrase ***let's go*** is used in speech to tell someone to go or work faster. • Are you still getting dressed? *Let's go*! We need to leave in five minutes! **c** ✧ The phrase ***let us pray*** is used to introduce a prayer. • *Let us pray*. Dear God, we thank you for this day . . . **d** ✧ The phrases ***let's face it*** and ***let's be honest*** are used to say that something is true and cannot be denied. • *Let's face it*: we need more time. • *Let's be honest*, those two were never right for each other.
4 a [+ *obj*] : to allow someone to use (something) in return for payment : RENT • They have rooms ***to let***. [=rooms that people can rent to live in] **b** [*no obj*] *chiefly Brit* : to be rented or leased for a specified amount of money • The flat *lets* [=*rents*] for 350 pounds a month.
5 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* [+ *obj*] : to allow (someone or something) to go, pass by, etc. • *Let* me out! • She locked the door and refused to *let* him in. • The guard refused to *let* us through the gate. • *Let* me through/past! [=let me move through a group of people, past a barrier, etc.]
let alone **1** — used to refer to something that is even less likely or possible than the thing previously mentioned • I can barely understand it, *let alone* explain it. **2** ***let (someone or something) alone*** : to not bother or touch (someone or something) • *Let* [=(more commonly) *leave*] your sister *alone*. • All I ask is to be *let alone*. [=(more commonly) *left alone*] • Would you please *let* it *alone*? • I never did learn to ***let well enough alone***. [=to leave well enough alone; to stop changing something that is already good enough]
let bygones be bygones see BYGONES
let down [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***let (someone) down*** **a** : to fail to give help or support to (someone who needs or expects it) : DISAPPOINT • I promised Mary that I'd help her, and I can't *let* her *down*. • It's my fault we lost the game. I *let* the team *down*. • He never *lets down* a friend in need. — sometimes used figuratively • His judgment *let* him *down*. [=his judgment was poor; he made a bad decision] **b** : to make (someone) unhappy or displeased by not being as good as expected • The end of the story really *let* me *down*. = I felt *let down* by the end of the story. [=the end of the story was disappointing] — see also LETDOWN **2** ✧ To ***let someone down easy/gently*** is to give someone unpleasant news in a gentle or kind way. • She tried to *let* him *down gently* when she told him he didn't get the job. • I knew I had to fire her, but I was trying to think of a way to *let* her *down easy*. **3** ***let (something) down or let down (something)*** **a** : to cause or allow (something) to move down gradually • *let* a bucket *down* into a well = *let down* a bucket into a well **b** : to make (a skirt, a pair of pants, etc.) longer • The pants were a little too short and needed to be *let down* a little. — see also *let your hair down* at HAIR
let fly *or* ***let fly with*** see [1]FLY
let go **1** *or* ***let (something or someone) go*** *or* ***let go of (something or someone)*** *or* ***let go (something or someone)*** : to stop holding or gripping something or someone • I tried to take the ball from him, but he wouldn't *let go*. • She grabbed my hand and refused to *let go*. • He *let* the rope *go*. = He *let go of* the rope. = (less commonly) He *let go* the rope. — often used figuratively • When a child grows up and moves away from home, it can be hard for parents to *let go*. [=to allow the child to live independently; to not be too involved in the child's decisions, actions, etc.] • I know she disappointed you, but you need to *let* the past *go* and move on with your life. [=you need to stop caring or thinking about the past] • You need to *let go of* the past. • She felt she had been treated wrongly, and she wasn't willing to *let* it *go*. [=she wasn't willing to forget how she had been treated] • You're late. I'll *let* it *go* this time, but it had better not happen again. • The car is probably worth a lot more, but she agreed to *let* it *go* for five thousand dollars. [=she agreed to sell the car for five thousand dollars] **2** *or* ***let (yourself) go*** : to behave in a very free and open way • He really *lets go* when he's out partying with his friends. • She has a hard time relaxing and *letting herself go*. **3** ***let (someone) go*** **a** : to allow (someone who is being held as a slave, prisoner, etc.) to be free • They *let* the prisoner *go*. = The prisoner was *let go*. **b** : to officially make (someone) leave a job • The company *let* him *go* at the end of the month. = He was *let go* at the end of the month. **4** ***let (yourself) go*** : to fail to take care of (yourself) • I was very depressed back then and had really *let myself go*. [=I had stopped taking care of myself]
let it all hang out *informal* : to show your true feelings : to behave in a very free and open way • When I'm with my friends, I *let it all hang out*.
let loose see [1]LOOSE
let me see *or* ***let's see*** *or* ***let me think*** — used in speech by someone who is trying to remember something • *Let me see*, where did I put my keys? • *Let's see*, how long did it take last time? • What was the name of that restaurant? *Let me think*. Oh, that's right: "The High Street Café."
let off [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***let (someone) off*** *or* ***let off (someone)*** : to allow (someone) to get off a bus, an airplane, etc. • Could you *let* me *off* (the bus) at the next stop, please? • The bus stopped to *let off* a few passengers. **2** ***let (someone) off*** : to allow (someone who has been caught doing something wrong or illegal) to go without being punished • The police officer *let* her *off* with just a warning. • They *let* him *off* easy/easily/lightly, if you ask me. [=I do not think he was punished as severely as he could/should have been] — often used in the phrase ***let (someone) off the hook*** • If you ask me, they *let* him *off the hook* too easily. **3** ***let off (something)*** : to cause (something) to explode or to be released in a forceful way • *let off* [=*set off*] a firecracker • *let off* pressure — see also *let off (some) steam* at [1]STEAM
let on [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***let (someone) on*** *or* ***let on (someone)*** : to allow (someone) to get on a bus, an airplane, etc. • They *let* passengers with small children *on* (the airplane)

first. ▪ The bus stopped to *let on* a few more passengers. **2 *let on* or *let on (something)*** *informal* : to tell, admit, or show that you know something ▪ He knows a lot more than he *lets on*. ▪ Don't *let on* that I told you! ▪ She was unhappy, but she never *let on*. = She never *let on* to anyone that she was unhappy. [=she never showed or told anyone that she was unhappy] **3** *US, informal* : to pretend or seem ▪ She's not as happy as she *lets on*.

let out [*phrasal verb*] **1 *let (something or someone) out* or *let out (something or someone)*** : to release (something or someone) ▪ She *let out* a scream. [=she screamed] ▪ They *let* the prisoner *out* (of prison) for the weekend. = The prisoner was *let out* for the weekend. ▪ *Let* the clutch *out* slowly. — see also LETOUT **2 *let (something) out* or *let out (something)*** : to make (a shirt, a pair of pants, etc.) larger ▪ The skirt is too tight and needs to be *let out* a little. ▪ *let out* a pair of pants — opposite *take in* at ¹TAKE **3** *US, of a school* : to end a semester, year, or session ▪ School *lets out* in June.

let rip see ¹RIP

let sleeping dogs lie see ¹DOG

let (someone) have it *informal* : to attack, punish, or criticize (someone) in a violent or angry way ▪ When she found out what they'd been doing, she really *let* them *have it*.

let (someone) in on (something) : to allow (someone) to know (a secret) ▪ He said he'd *let* me *in on* a secret if I promised not to tell anyone else.

let (someone) know see ¹KNOW

let (someone or something) be : to not bother or touch (someone or something) ▪ Please *let* [=*leave*] *me be*.

let (something) be known see ¹KNOW

let (something) slip *or* ***let slip (something)*** see ¹SLIP

let the cat out of the bag see CAT

let the grass grow under your feet see ¹GRASS

let up [*phrasal verb*] **1** : to stop or become slower ▪ Won't this rain ever *let up*? ▪ There's a lot of work still to be done. We can't *let up* now. — see also LETUP **2 *let up on (someone)*** : to treat (someone) in a less harsh or demanding way ▪ The students might respond better if the teacher *let up on* [=*eased up on*] them a little. **3 *let up on (something)*** : to apply less pressure to (something) ▪ I *let up on* [=*eased up on*] the gas pedal.

let (yourself) in for : to cause (yourself) to have or experience (something bad or unpleasant) ▪ She's *letting herself in for* a lot of trouble/criticism. ▪ When I agreed to help, I didn't know what I was *letting myself in for*. [=*getting myself into*]

²let *noun, pl* **lets** [*count*] *tennis* : a serve that is not accepted or allowed officially and must be done again ▪ The first serve was a *let*.

without let or hindrance *chiefly Brit, law* : without being interfered with ▪ They have the right to vote *without let or hindrance*. [=without anyone making it difficult or impossible for them to vote]

-let /lət/ *noun suffix* : small one ▪ book*let* [=a small book] ▪ drop*let* ▪ pig*let*

let•down /ˈlɛtˌdaʊn/ *noun, pl* **-downs** [*count*] : something that is not as good as it was expected to be ▪ The news was a *letdown*. [=*disappointment*] — see also *let down* at ¹LET

le•thal /ˈliːθəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : causing or able to cause death ▪ *lethal* chemicals/weapons ▪ a potentially *lethal* dose of a drug ▪ He was sentenced to death by *lethal* injection. ▪ In rare instances, the disease can be *lethal*. [=(more commonly) *fatal*] — often used figuratively ▪ a pitcher with a *lethal* fastball [=a very powerful or effective fastball] ▪ a *lethal* [=very damaging] attack on her reputation ***synonyms*** see ¹DEADLY

– le•thal•ly *adv* ▪ *lethally* poisonous

le•thar•gic /ləˈθɑɚʤɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : feeling a lack of energy or a lack of interest in doing things ▪ The patient is weak and *lethargic*. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ a sluggish and *lethargic* economy

– leth•ar•gic•al•ly /ləˈθɑɚʤɪkli/ *adv* ▪ moving *lethargically*

leth•ar•gy /ˈlɛθɚʤi/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a lack of energy or a lack of interest in doing things : a lethargic feeling or state ▪ Symptoms of the disease include loss of appetite and *lethargy*. ▪ I snapped out of my *lethargy* and began cleaning the house. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ The stock market's recent *lethargy* is cause for concern.

let•out /ˈlɛtˌaʊt/ *noun, pl* **-outs** [*count*] *Brit, informal* : something (such as an excuse or a part of a contract) that makes it possible to avoid doing something ▪ Is there no *letout* I can use to get out of attending the meeting? — see also *let out* at ¹LET

let's /ˈlɛts/ — used as a contraction of *let us* ▪ *Let's* do our best.

¹let•ter /ˈlɛtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ters**

1 [*count*] : any one of the marks that are symbols for speech sounds in written language and that form an alphabet ▪ the *letter* "a" ▪ "F" is the sixth *letter* of the English alphabet. ▪ I wrote my name in capital *letters*.

2 [*count*] : a written or printed message to someone ▪ write/send/mail a business/love *letter* to someone ▪ *letters* to the editor ▪ They always answer the *letters* they get/receive from their fans. ▪ He asked them for a *letter* of recommendation/introduction. — see picture at MAIL; see also CHAIN LETTER, COVER LETTER, DEAD LETTER, FORM LETTER, NEWSLETTER, OPEN LETTER, POISON-PEN LETTER

3 *letters* [*plural*] *formal* : LITERATURE ▪ She's well-known in the field of English *letters*. — see also MAN OF LETTERS

4 [*singular*] : the exact meaning of something (such as a law) that is stated in writing ▪ They seem to be more concerned with obeying ***the letter of the law*** [=with doing exactly what the law says] than with understanding the spirit of the law.

5 [*count*] *US* : a large cloth letter that is the first letter of a school's name, that is awarded to a student for playing on a sports team, and that can be sewn onto a sweater or jacket ▪ He earned his *letter* in football.

by letter : by sending and receiving letters ▪ We communicated with each other *by letter*. ▪ a relationship that began *by letter*

to the letter : exactly or precisely ▪ obey the law *to the letter*

²letter *verb* **-ters; -tered; -ter•ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to write or print letters on (something) : to mark (something) with letters — usually used as *(be) lettered* ▪ a sign *lettered* in bright red ▪ The sign *was* carefully *lettered* by hand. — often used in combination ▪ a hand-*lettered* sign

2 [*no obj*] *US* : to earn a school letter for playing on a sports team — usually + *in* ▪ He *lettered in* football.

letter bomb *noun, pl* ~ **bombs** [*count*] : a bomb that is mailed to someone in a letter or package and that explodes when the letter or package is opened — called also (*Brit*) *parcel bomb*

letter box *noun, pl* ~ **boxes** [*count*] *Brit* : MAILBOX

letter carrier *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] *US* : a person who delivers mail

let•ter•head /ˈlɛtɚˌhɛd/ *noun, pl* **-heads** [*count*] : the name and address of an organization (such as a company) that is printed at the top of a piece of paper used for writing official letters ▪ We changed the design of our *letterhead*.; *also* [*noncount*] *US* : paper that has the name and address of an organization printed at the top ▪ They sent her a letter printed on company *letterhead*.

let•ter•ing /ˈlɛtərɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : letters written or printed on something ▪ I couldn't read the sign's *lettering*. ▪ a sign with gold *lettering*

letter opener *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] : a device that has a sharp edge or part that is used to cut open envelopes — called also (*Brit*) *paper knife*

let•ter–per•fect /ˈlɛtɚˈpɚfɪkt/ *adj, US* : correct in every detail ▪ Her rendition of the song was *letter-perfect*.

let•tuce /ˈlɛtəs/ *noun, pl* **-tuces** [*count, noncount*] : a plant that has large leaves that are eaten especially in salads ▪ a head of *lettuce* ▪ iceberg/romaine *lettuce* ▪ I like a little *lettuce* and tomato on my sandwiches.

let•up /ˈlɛtˌʌp/ *noun* : a time during which something stops or slows down [*noncount*] It rained three days without *letup*. [=it rained continuously for three days] ▪ We worked without *letup*. [=we worked continuously] [*singular*] There's been a *letup* [=*break*] in the fighting. — see also *let up* at ¹LET

leu•ke•mia *or chiefly Brit* **leu•kae•mia** /luˈkiːmijə/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : a very serious disease in which the body forms too many white blood cells

– leu•ke•mic *or chiefly Brit* **leu•kae•mic** /luˈkiːmɪk/ *adj* ▪ *leukemic* cells/patients

lev•ee /ˈlɛvi/ *noun, pl* **-ees** [*count*] *US* : a long wall of soil built along a river to prevent flooding

¹lev•el /ˈlɛvəl/ *noun, pl* **-els**

1 a : a specific height [*noncount*] The pictures were hung on the wall at eye *level*. ▪ at street/ground *level* [*count*] The pictures were hung at different *levels*. — see also GROUND-LEVEL, SEA LEVEL **b** [*count*] : a part of a building that is at a specific height ▪ We were seated in the upper *level* [=*floor*] of the restaurant. — see also SPLIT-LEVEL

2 [*count*] : an amount of something ▪ There was a high *level* of alcohol/lead in his blood. ▪ a normal *level* of intelligence ▪ Prices have risen to a new *level*. ▪ He has shown a remarkable *level* of patience. [=he has been very patient] ▪ They have demonstrated a high *level* of interest [=they have been very interested] in this proposal. ▪ They checked the reservoir's water *level*. [=the amount of water in the reservoir]

3 [*count*] : a position or rank in a scale : a position that is high or low when compared to others ▪ She rose to the *level* of manager. ▪ She has reached a rare *level* of financial success. ▪ These problems affect people at all *levels* of society. ▪ Can this problem be dealt with at/on a national *level* or must it be addressed at/on an international *level*? — see also ENTRY-LEVEL, HIGH-LEVEL, LOW-LEVEL

4 [*count*] : a way of thinking about, talking about, or dealing with something ▪ The argument appeals to me on a purely intellectual *level* but fails to reach me on a deeper emotional *level*. ▪ I'm attracted to the job on many *levels*. ▪ He studied the changes in the chemical at the molecular *level*. [=he studied the changes in the molecules of the chemical] ▪ She has enjoyed great success in her professional life, but, ***on a*** (more) ***personal level***, this has been a very stressful time. [=this has been a very stressful time in her personal life]

5 [*count*] : a device used to see when something is exactly flat — called also *spirit level*; see picture at CARPENTRY

descend/sink/stoop to someone's level : to behave as badly as someone who has treated you wrongly ▪ Despite my opponent's personal attacks against me, I refuse to *stoop to his level*. [=I refuse to behave as badly as he has by attacking him personally]

on the level *informal* : not false or dishonest ▪ Is this guy *on the level*? [=is this guy honest?]

[2]level *adj*

1 : having a flat or even surface ▪ We pitched the tent on *level* ground. ▪ a *level* floor/road ▪ The recipe calls for a ***level teaspoon/tablespoon*** of sugar. [=an amount of sugar that fills a teaspoon/tablespoon exactly without going above its edges]

2 : not going up or down ▪ an airplane in *level* flight ▪ Interest rates have remained *level*.

3 a : having the same height as something else — usually + *with* ▪ The water was *level with* my waist. ▪ The window is *level with* the tops of the trees. **b** : not in front of or behind something or someone else ▪ The boards are *level*. — often + *with* ▪ They drew *level with* the rest of the runners. ▪ Make sure that the ends of the boards are *level with* each other.

4 *chiefly Brit* : having the same position, score, or rank : EVEN ▪ The teams are *level* (with each other) in the standings. ▪ They trailed early in the game, but they drew *level* [=they tied the score] in the second half. — compare LEVEL-PEGGING

5 : steady and calm ▪ She spoke in a *level* voice. ▪ It's important to ***keep a level head*** [=to remain calm] when you're dealing with a dangerous situation like this one.

your level best : your best effort at doing something ▪ He ***tried his level best*** to win the race. [=he tried as hard as he could to win the race] ▪ She ***did her level best*** to please her mother. [=she tried very hard to please her mother]

[3]level *verb* **-els**; *US* **-eled** *or chiefly Brit* **-elled**; *US* **-el·ing** *or chiefly Brit* **-el·ling** [+ *obj*]

1 : to make (something) flat or level ▪ They will *level* the field. ▪ We need to *level* the garden before we plant anything.

2 : to knock (someone or something) down to the ground ▪ The earthquake *leveled* the city. ▪ He *leveled* his opponent with a right hook.

3 a : to point (a weapon) *at* someone ▪ The robber *leveled* a gun *at* his head. **b** : to direct (something, such as criticism) *at* or *against* someone ▪ They *leveled* a fraud charge *against* him. [=they charged him with fraud] ▪ Several complaints have been *leveled at* the store. ▪ Criticism has been *leveled against* the government for not responding to this crisis.

4 *chiefly Brit* : to make (a score) equal : TIE ▪ He scored a goal that *leveled* the score at 3–3.

level off [*phrasal verb*] **1** : to stop going up or down ▪ The plane *leveled off* at 30,000 feet. ▪ The road *levels off* just before the river. ▪ Business at the restaurant is *leveling off*. **2** ***level (something) off*** *or* ***level off (something)*** : to make (something) flat or even ▪ They used a bulldozer *level off* the field.

level out [*phrasal verb*] : to stop going up or down ▪ Divorce rates are *leveling out* for the first time in decades. ▪ My moods have *leveled out*.

level the playing field : to make a situation fair for everyone ▪ He wants the government to *level the playing field* by breaking up large corporations so that smaller companies can compete. — see also LEVEL PLAYING FIELD

level with [*phrasal verb*] ***level with (someone)*** *informal* : to speak honestly to (someone) ▪ He never *leveled with* his parents about the accident. ▪ *Level with* me. Why did you do it?

level crossing *noun, pl* ~ **-ings** [*count*] *Brit* : RAILROAD CROSSING

lev·el·er (*US*) *or chiefly Brit* **lev·el·ler** /ˈlɛvələ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : something that treats or affects all people the same way ▪ Death is the great *leveler*. [=death is the same for all people no matter how rich or powerful they may be]

lev·el·head·ed /ˌlɛvəlˈhɛdəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having or showing an ability to think clearly and to make good decisions ▪ She is *levelheaded* about her chances for success as an actress. ▪ a *levelheaded* assessment of the problem
– **lev·el·head·ed·ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

lev·el–peg·ging /ˌlɛvəlˈpɛgɪŋ/ *adj, Brit* : even with one another in a contest or competition ▪ The candidates are *level-pegging* in all the opinion polls.

level playing field *noun* [*singular*] : a state in which conditions in a competition or situation are fair for everyone ▪ He wants the government to break up large corporations so that there is a *level playing field* for smaller companies. — see also *level the playing field* at [3]LEVEL

[1]le·ver /ˈlɛvɚ, ˈliːvɚ/ *noun, pl* **-vers** [*count*]

1 : a strong bar that is used to lift and move something heavy

2 : a bar or rod that is used to operate or adjust something on a machine, vehicle, device, etc. ▪ Pull the brake *lever*.

3 : something used to achieve a desired result ▪ They used their money as a *lever* to gain political power.

[2]lever *verb* **-vers**; **-vered**; **-ver·ing** [+ *obj*] : to lift or move (something) with a lever ▪ He *levered* the rock out of the hole. — often used figuratively ▪ They tried unsuccessfully to *lever* him out of his job. [=to force him out of his job] ▪ She *levered* her way into a position of political power.

le·ver·age /ˈlɛvərɪʤ, ˈliːvərɪʤ/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : influence or power used to achieve a desired result ▪ The union's size gave it *leverage* in the labor contract negotiations. ▪ The player's popularity has given him a great deal of *leverage* with the owners of the team.

2 : the increase in force gained by using a lever ▪ I used the *leverage* of the bar and a wooden block to pry the rock out of the hole.

leverage *verb* **-ag·es**; **-aged**; **-ag·ing** [+ *obj*] *chiefly US* : to use (something valuable) to achieve a desired result ▪ The company wants to *leverage* its brands more effectively.

leveraged buyout *noun, pl* ~ **-outs** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a business arrangement in which someone buys a company by borrowing money based on the value of the company that is being bought

le·vi·a·than /lɪˈvajəθən/ *noun, pl* **-thans** [*count*] *literary* : something that is very large and powerful : GIANT ▪ The factory is a towering *leviathan* in the middle of the town. ▪ a *leviathan* corporation

Le·vi's /ˈliːˌvaɪz/ *trademark* — used especially for blue jeans

lev·i·tate /ˈlɛvəˌteɪt/ *verb* **-tates**; **-tat·ed**; **-tat·ing** : to rise or make (something) rise into the air in a way that appears to be magical [*no obj*] The woman *levitated* above the stage. [+ *obj*] The magician claimed he could *levitate* a car.
– **lev·i·ta·tion** /ˌlɛvəˈteɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

lev·i·ty /ˈlɛvəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] *somewhat formal*

1 : a lack of seriousness ▪ She would not tolerate any *levity* [=*frivolity*] in the classroom.

2 : an amusing quality ▪ They managed to find some *levity* in the situation.

[1]levy /ˈlɛvi/ *noun, pl* **lev·ies** [*count*] : an amount of money that must be paid and that is collected by a government or other authority ▪ The government imposed a *levy* [=*tax*] on gasoline.

[2]levy *verb* **levies**; **lev·ied**; **levy·ing** [+ *obj*] : to use legal authority to demand and collect (a fine, a tax, etc.) ▪ They *levied* a tax on imports. ▪ The government will *levy* a fine on the company.

lewd /ˈluːd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : sexual in an offensive or rude way ▪ He made *lewd* remarks/comments to the woman at the bar. ▪ *lewd* behavior ▪ ***lewd and lascivious*** acts
– **lewd·ly** *adv* – **lewd·ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ He was arrested for public *lewdness*.

lex·i·cal /ˈlɛksɪkəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *linguistics* : relating

to words or vocabulary ▪ the *lexical* content of [=the words used in] a statement

lex•i•con /ˈlɛksəˌkɑːn, *Brit* ˈlɛksəkən/ *noun, pl* **-cons** [*count*]

1 : the words used in a language or by a person or group of people ▪ a computer term that has entered the general *lexicon*

2 *somewhat formal* : DICTIONARY ▪ a Latin *lexicon*

lg. *abbr* large

LH *abbr* left hand

li•a•bil•i•ty /ˌlajəˈbɪləti/ *noun, pl* **-ties**

1 [*noncount*] : the state of being legally responsible for something : the state of being liable for something ▪ The company is trying to limit its *liability* in this case. ▪ criminal *liability* [=the state of being responsible for a crime] ▪ The judge cleared me of any/all *liability* for the accident. [=the judge said that I was not responsible for the accident]

2 [*count*] : something (such as the payment of money) for which a person or business is legally responsible ▪ a tax *liability* [=taxes that will have to be paid] — usually plural ▪ business assets and *liabilities* [=*debts*]

3 [*count*] : someone or something that causes problems ▪ His small size was a *liability* (to him) as a football player. ▪ This scandal has made the vice president a *liability* (for this administration).

li•a•ble /ˈlajəbəl/ *adj*

1 : legally responsible for something ▪ If someone gets hurt on your property, you could be *liable*. ▪ The amusement park was held *liable* in the boy's death. [=a court of law ruled that the amusement park was responsible for the boy's death] — usually + *for* ▪ He is *liable for* his wife's debts. [=he is responsible for paying his wife's debts] ▪ They are *liable for* any damage. [=they will be required to pay for any damage]

2 [*more ~; most ~*] : likely to be affected or harmed by something — + *to* ▪ Her condition makes her *liable to* illness. ▪ *liable to* injury

3 [*more ~; most ~*] : likely to do something — + *to* ▪ You're *liable to* fall if you're not more careful. ▪ It's *liable to* rain before we're done. ▪ That guy's *liable to* say anything. [=he might say anything]

li•aise /liˈeɪz/ *verb* **-ais•es; -aised; -ais•ing** [*no obj*] *chiefly Brit* : to make it possible for two organizations or groups to work together and provide information to each other : to act as a liaison — usually + *with* or *between* ▪ Administrators need to *liaise with* employees at the factory, and the personnel department needs to *liaise between* the administrators and the employees.

li•ai•son /ˈliːjəˌzɑːn, liˈeɪˌzɑːn/ *noun, pl* **-sons**

1 a [*count*] : a person who helps organizations or groups to work together and provide information to each other ▪ She acts as a *liaison* between the police department and city schools. **b** : a relationship that allows different organizations or groups to work together and provide information to each other [*noncount*] Administrators need to maintain better/closer *liaison* with employees. [*singular*] Administrators need to establish a close *liaison* with employees.

2 [*count*] : a secret sexual relationship : AFFAIR ▪ He regretted his *liaison* with a woman from the office. ▪ sexual *liaisons*

li•ar /ˈlajɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ars** [*count*] : a person who tells lies ▪ She called him a dirty *liar*.

lib /ˈlɪb/ *noun* [*noncount*] *informal* : LIBERATION ▪ women's *lib*

– lib•ber /ˈlɪbɚ/ *noun, pl* **-bers** [*count*] ▪ a women's *libber* [=a person who supports women's liberation]

li•ba•tion /laɪˈbeɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*]

1 *formal* : a liquid that is poured out to honor a god ▪ They offered *libations* at the temple.

2 *humorous* : an alcoholic drink ▪ We met for a *libation* after work.

Lib Dem /ˌlɪbˈdɛm/ *noun, pl* ~ **Dems** [*count*] *Brit, informal* : LIBERAL DEMOCRAT ▪ Charles Kennedy MP (*Lib Dem*)

[1]li•bel /ˈlaɪbəl/ *noun, pl* **-bels** : the act of publishing a false statement that causes people to have a bad opinion of someone [*noncount*] He sued the newspaper for *libel*. ▪ The newspaper was found guilty of *libel*. [*count*] The newspaper's attorneys argued that the article was not a *libel*. — compare SLANDER

[2]libel *verb* **-bels**; *US* **-beled** *or chiefly Brit* **-belled**; *US* **-bel•ing** *or chiefly Brit* **-bel•ling** [+ *obj*] : to write and publish a false statement that causes people to have a bad opinion of (someone) ▪ The jury found that the article *libeled* him.

li•bel•ous (*US*) *or chiefly Brit* **li•bel•lous** /ˈlaɪbələs/ *adj* : containing an untrue written statement that causes people to have a bad opinion of someone ▪ a *libelous* magazine article

[1]lib•er•al /ˈlɪbərəl, ˈlɪbrəl/ *adj*

1 a [*more ~; most ~*] : believing that government should be active in supporting social and political change : relating to or supporting political liberalism ▪ a leading *liberal* thinker ▪ *liberal* politicians/policies ▪ She is a *liberal* Democrat who married a conservative Republican. — compare [1]CONSERVATIVE **b** *Liberal Brit* : of or belonging to the liberal political party in countries like Canada and the United Kingdom ▪ *Liberal* voters/policies

2 [*more ~; most ~*] : not opposed to new ideas or ways of behaving that are not traditional or widely accepted ▪ She has a *liberal* attitude toward sex. — compare [1]CONSERVATIVE

3 [*more ~; most ~*] **a** : generous to others : giving time, money, etc., freely to other people — often + *with* ▪ She has always been *liberal with* her donations. **b** : very large in amount ▪ He made a very *liberal* donation to the museum. ▪ a cook who uses a *liberal* quantity of spices [=who uses a large amount of spices]

4 [*more ~; most ~*] : not strict or exact ▪ a fairly *liberal* [=*loose*] interpretation of the law

5 *somewhat formal* : involving or relating to studies that are intended to give you general knowledge rather than to develop specific skills : relating to the liberal arts ▪ He received a *liberal* education.

– lib•er•al•ly /ˈlɪbərəli, ˈlɪbrəli/ *adv* ▪ The book is *liberally* sprinkled with humor. ▪ She gave *liberally* to the charity.

[2]liberal *noun, pl* **-als** [*count*]

1 : a person who believes that government should be active in supporting social and political change : a person who is politically liberal ▪ a policy that is supported both by *liberals* and conservatives in Congress — compare [2]CONSERVATIVE

2 *Liberal Brit* : a member or supporter of a liberal political party in countries like the United Kingdom and Canada

liberal arts *noun* [*plural*] : areas of study (such as history, language, and literature) that are intended to give you general knowledge rather than to develop specific skills needed for a profession ▪ the sciences and the *liberal arts* ▪ She graduated from a *liberal arts* college in the Midwest.

Liberal Democrat *noun, pl* ~ **-crats** [*count*] : a member or supporter of a British political party that is known as the Liberal Democrats

lib•er•al•ism /ˈlɪbərəˌlɪzəm, ˈlɪbrəˌlɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : belief in the value of social and political change in order to achieve progress ▪ political *liberalism* — compare CONSERVATISM

lib•er•al•i•ty /ˌlɪbəˈrælәti/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : a liberal quality or attitude: such as **a** : the quality of not being opposed to ideas or ways of behaving that are not traditional or widely accepted ▪ They were shocked by the *liberality* of her views on sex. **b** : the quality of being generous : GENEROSITY ▪ He treated his friends with remarkable *liberality*.

lib•er•al•ize *also Brit* **lib•er•al•ise** /ˈlɪbrəˌlaɪz/ *verb* **-iz•es; -ized; -iz•ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to make (something) less strict or more liberal ▪ The country began to *liberalize* its immigration policies. [=to make them less strict]

2 [*no obj*] : to become less strict or more liberal ▪ The country's immigration policies have begun to *liberalize*.

– lib•er•al•i•za•tion *also Brit* **lib•er•al•i•sa•tion** /ˌlɪbrələˈzeɪʃən, *Brit* ˌlɪbrəˌlaɪˈzeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

lib•er•ate /ˈlɪbəˌreɪt/ *verb* **-ates; -at•ed; -at•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to free (someone or something) from being controlled by another person, group, etc. ▪ Rebels fought to *liberate* the country. ▪ Soldiers *liberated* the hostages from their captors.

2 : to give freedom or more freedom to (someone) ▪ Laptop computers could *liberate* workers from their desks.

3 *humorous* : to take or steal (something) ▪ He was using materials that he had *liberated* from a construction site.

– lib•er•a•tor /ˈlɪbəˌreɪtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*] ▪ a *liberator* of slaves

liberated *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : freed from or opposed to traditional social and sexual attitudes or ways of behaving ▪ a *liberated* woman ▪ a *liberated* marriage

liberating *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : making you feel free ▪ He found that changing jobs was very *liberating*. ▪ a *liberating* discovery

lib•er•a•tion /ˌlɪbəˈreɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : the act or process of freeing someone or something from another's control : the act of liberating someone or some-

thing ▪ their *liberation* from slavery ▪ The *liberation* of the city took weeks.

2 : the removal of traditional social or sexual rules, attitudes, etc. ▪ women's *liberation* ▪ sexual *liberation*

lib•er•tar•i•an /ˌlɪbəˈterijən/ *noun, pl* **-ans** [*count*] : a person who believes that people should be allowed to do and say what they want without any interference from the government

– **libertarian** *adj* ▪ *libertarian* theories – **lib•er•tar•i•an•ism** /ˌlɪbəˈterijəˌnɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*]

lib•er•tine /ˈlɪbəˌti:n/ *noun, pl* **-tines** [*count*] *literary* : a person (especially a man) who leads an immoral life and is mainly interested in sexual pleasure ▪ *libertines* of the royal court

– **libertine** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ *libertine* behavior

lib•er•ty /ˈlɪbəti/ *noun, pl* **-ties**

1 [*noncount*] : the state or condition of people who are able to act and speak freely : FREEDOM ▪ a nation that values *liberty* and democracy ▪ soldiers willing to die in defense of *liberty*

2 [*noncount*] : the power to do or choose what you want to ▪ They gave him the *liberty* to handle the problem himself.

3 [*count*] : a political right ▪ hard-won *liberties* such as freedom of the press ▪ personal *liberties*

at liberty *formal* **1** : able to act or speak freely — followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ You are *at liberty to go* or *stay*. ▪ I am not *at liberty to say* if the rumor is true. **2** : no longer held or kept as a prisoner ▪ a former prisoner who is now *at liberty*

take liberties **1** *disapproving* : to make important changes to something — usually + *with* ▪ I think the movie *takes* too many *liberties with* the original story. **2** *old-fashioned* : to be informal and friendly toward someone in a way that is not proper — usually + *with* ▪ He was accused of *taking liberties with* several young women.

take the liberty of ✧ If you *take the liberty of* doing something, you do something without asking for permission to do it. ▪ I *took the liberty of* making a reservation for us. ▪ I *took the liberty of* telling them you weren't interested.

li•bid•i•nous /ləˈbɪdənəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : feeling or relating to strong sexual desires ▪ *libidinous* urges

li•bi•do /ləˈbi:doʊ/ *noun, pl* **-dos** *technical* : a person's desire to have sex [*count*] They have healthy *libidos*. [*noncount*] Lack of *libido* may be a sign of depression.

Li•bra /ˈli:brə/ *noun*

1 [*noncount*] : the seventh sign of the zodiac that comes between Virgo and Scorpio and has a pair of scales as its symbol — see picture at ZODIAC

2 [*count*] : a person born under the sign of Libra : a person born between September 22nd and October 23rd ▪ I'm a *Libra*.

li•brar•i•an /laɪˈbrerijən/ *noun, pl* **-ans** [*count*] : a person who works in a library

li•brary /ˈlaɪˌbreri, *Brit* ˈlaɪbrəri/ *noun, pl* **-brar•ies** [*count*]

1 : a place where books, magazines, and other materials (such as videos and musical recordings) are available for people to use or borrow ▪ I borrowed the book from the school *library*. ▪ a public *library* ▪ a *library* book/card — see also LENDING LIBRARY, REFERENCE LIBRARY

2 : a room in a person's house where books are kept

3 : a collection of similar things (such as books or recordings) ▪ He has an impressive *library* of jazz records. ▪ a *library* of computer programs

li•bret•tist /ləˈbrɛtɪst/ *noun, pl* **-tists** [*count*] : a person who writes a libretto

li•bret•to /ləˈbrɛtoʊ/ *noun, pl* **-tos** *or* **-ti** /-ti/ [*count*] *formal* : the words of an opera or musical

lice *plural of* ¹LOUSE 1

¹li•cense (*US*) *or chiefly Brit* **li•cence** /ˈlaɪsṇs/ *noun, pl* **-cens•es**

1 [*count*] : an official document, card, etc., that gives you permission to do, use, or have something ▪ The restaurant's owner applied for a *license* to sell liquor. ▪ a liquor *license* ▪ a fishing *license* — often used to refer specifically to a driver's license ▪ I have to renew my *license*. ▪ She was arrested for driving without a *license*. ▪ He lost his *license* after he was arrested for drunk driving. ▪ He had to show his *license* to prove his age. — see also DRIVER'S LICENSE, MARRIAGE LICENSE

2 : freedom to act however you want to — followed by *to* + *verb* [*noncount*] His job as a reporter gives him *license to go* anywhere and ask anything. [*singular*] She regards her illness as a *license to treat* other people badly. [=she thinks that because she is ill she can treat other people badly]

3 [*noncount*] : the freedom of an artist, writer, etc., to change the way something is described or shown in order to produce a work of art ▪ artistic/poetic/creative *license*

4 [*count*] : a document or agreement that allows a certain number of people to use a computer program ▪ We have a *license* for 10 users.

a license to print money *sometimes disapproving* : a way of making a large amount of money very easily ▪ He says that if the new law is passed it will give these companies *a license to print money*.

under license : in a business arrangement where one company gives official permission to another company to do or make something ▪ The company makes computer chips *under license* from the original manufacturer.

²license *also Brit* **licence** *verb* **-censes; -censed; -censing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to give official permission to (someone or something) to do or use something : to give a license to (someone or something) ▪ The restaurant has now been *licensed* to sell liquor.

2 : to give official permission for (something) ▪ a new drug *licensed* by the government ▪ The gun was not *licensed* to him. [=he did not have formal permission to own the gun]

3 : to allow the use of (a name, property, etc.) through a formal agreement ▪ The company *licensed* its name to others.

licensed *adj*

1 : having official permission to have or do something : having a license ▪ a *licensed* physician/teacher ▪ a *licensed* driver/pilot

2 *chiefly Brit* : having official permission to sell liquor ▪ a *licensed* hotel ▪ *licensed* premises [=a place that has a license to sell liquor]

licensed practical nurse *noun, pl* ~ **nurses** [*count*] : a nurse who has completed a basic level of training and is licensed to provide routine care to sick people — abbr. *LPN*; compare REGISTERED NURSE

li•cens•ee /ˌlaɪsṇˈsi:/ *noun, pl* **-ees** [*count*] *business* : a person or company that has a license to have, make, do, or use something

license number *noun, pl* ~ **-bers** [*count*] *US* : the numbers and letters on a vehicle's license plate — called also (*Brit*) *registration number*

license plate *noun, pl* ~ **plates** [*count*] *US* : a metal plate on a vehicle that shows a series of numbers and letters that are used to identify the vehicle — called also (*chiefly Brit*) *number plate*; see picture at CAR

licensing law *noun, pl* ~ **laws** [*count*] *Brit* : a law that controls where and when alcoholic drinks may be sold — usually plural

li•cen•tious /laɪˈsɛnʃəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : sexually immoral or offensive ▪ *licentious* behavior

– **li•cen•tious•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

lichee *variant spelling of* LYCHEE

li•chen /ˈlaɪkən/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a type of small plant that grows on rocks and walls

¹lick /ˈlɪk/ *verb* **licks; licked; lick•ing**

1 : to pass the tongue over (a surface, an object, etc.) [+ *obj*] He *licked* the stamp before putting it on the envelope. ▪ The dog *licked* my cheek. = The dog *licked* me on the cheek. [*no obj*] The dog *licked* at the plate.

2 [+ *obj*] : to take (something) into your mouth with your tongue ▪ She *licked* the sauce off her finger. ▪ The cat *licked* the milk off/from her paws.

3 : to lightly touch or go over (a surface) [+ *obj*] Flames were already *licking* the ceiling. [*no obj*] Flames were already *licking* at/against the ceiling.

4 [+ *obj*] *informal* **a** : to defeat (someone) in a fight or contest ▪ He's pretty big, but I think I can *lick* him. **b** : to solve (a problem) ▪ Engineers think they have *licked* the problem with the rocket engine.

lick someone's boots *informal* + *disapproving* : to treat someone powerful with too much respect in order to get approval ▪ He's just the assistant to the manager, there's no need to *lick his boots*.

lick your lips **1** : to pass your tongue over your lips ▪ She *licked her lips* while she waited for the food to be served.

2 *or US* ***lick your chops*** : to feel or show excitement because something good is expected to happen ▪ The players knew they would win and were *licking their chops* as they waited for the game to start.

lick your wounds : to recover from defeat or disappoint-

ment ▪ He went home to *lick his wounds* after losing the election.

²lick *noun, pl* **licks** [*count*]

1 : the act of passing your tongue over something : the act of licking something ▪ He gave the bowl a *lick*. [=he licked the bowl] ▪ Could I have a *lick* of your ice cream?

2 *informal* : a small amount : BIT ▪ It just needs a *lick* of paint. — often used in negative statements in U.S. English ▪ She couldn't swim a *lick*. [=she couldn't swim at all] ▪ He hasn't done a *lick* of work. [=he hasn't done any work] ▪ She thinks he isn't worth a *lick*. [=she thinks he is worthless]

3 *informal* : a hard hit ▪ a football player who has taken a lot of *licks* [=who has been hit hard many times] — often used figuratively in U.S. English ▪ He said some pretty harsh things to her, but she got in a few *licks* herself. [=she also said some harsh things to him] ▪ The movie has ***taken its licks*** from the critics. [=has been harshly reviewed by the critics]

4 *informal* : a very short part of a piece of music ▪ guitar *licks*

a lick and a promise **1** *US* : a quick and careless attempt to do something ▪ They gave the budget problems a *lick and a promise* and then moved on to the next issue. **2** *Brit* : the act of washing something quickly or carelessly ▪ He gave the car *a lick and a promise*.

lick•e•ty–split /ˌlɪkəti'splɪt/ *adv, US, informal + old-fashioned* : very quickly ▪ He ran out the door *lickety-split*.

lick•ing /'lɪkɪŋ/ *noun* [*singular*] *informal*

1 : a severe beating ▪ His father threatened to give him a *licking* if he didn't stop misbehaving.

2 : a severe defeat ▪ The team got/took a good *licking* [=was badly defeated] in the first game of the season. — often used figuratively ▪ Many investors took a *licking* [=lost a lot of money] in the stock market last year.

lic•o•rice *or chiefly Brit* **li•quor•ice** /'lɪkərɪʃ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a candy made from the dried root of a European plant

lid /'lɪd/ *noun, pl* **lids** [*count*]

1 : a cover on a box, can, jar, etc., that can be lifted or removed — see picture at KITCHEN

2 : EYELID

blow the lid off (*chiefly US*) *or chiefly Brit* ***lift the lid on*** : to reveal the truth about (something) ▪ The investigation *blew the lid off* corruption in city hall.

flip your lid see ¹FLIP

keep a lid on **1** : to keep (something secret) from being known ▪ She tried to *keep a lid on* the news. **2** : to control (something) : to keep (something) from becoming worse ▪ The government has been unable to *keep a lid on* inflation.

put a lid on **1** : to stop (something) from growing or becoming worse ▪ These changes are intended to *put a lid on* rising medical costs. **2** *informal* : to stop doing or saying (something) ▪ He angrily told them to *put a lid on* their complaints. [=to stop complaining] ▪ I'm tired of listening to your complaints, so just ***put a lid on it***! [=*shut up*] **3** *or* ***put the lid on*** : to cause the end or failure of (something) ▪ The government used the army to *put a lid on* [=*stop*] the rebellion. ▪ The new official vowed that he would *put the lid on* violence once and for all. ▪ (*chiefly Brit*) The rain has really *put the lid on* our holiday plans. [=has ruined our holiday plans]

lid•ded /'lɪdəd/ *adj* : having a lid or a particular kind of lid ▪ a *lidded* container ▪ He has heavy-*lidded* eyes. [=eyes with large/heavy eyelids or with eyelids that are almost closed]

li•do /'liːdoʊ/ *noun, pl* **lidos** [*count*] *Brit* : a public outdoor swimming pool or swimming area

¹lie /'laɪ/ *verb* **lies**; **lay** /'leɪ/; **lain** /'leɪn/; **ly•ing** /'lajɪŋ/ [*no obj*]

1 *of a person or animal* **a** : to be in a flat position on a surface (such as a bed) ▪ *Lie* still. ▪ She *lay* asleep on the bed. ▪ He *lay* dead on the floor. ▪ The police found him *lying* unconscious in an alley. ▪ All the dog did was just *lie* there. — see picture at POSITION **b** : to move from a standing or sitting position to a flat position on a surface ▪ The doctor asked him to *lie* [=*lie down*] on the table. **c** — used to mark the place where a person is buried ▪ Here *lies* John Smith. = Here *lies* the body of John Smith.

2 *of things* : to be in a flat position on a surface ▪ snow *lying* on the ground ▪ A note was *lying* on the table when he came home. ▪ The leaves *lay* thick on the ground. ▪ He placed a hand on her shoulder, where it *lay* [=*rested*] for a moment.

3 a : to be or remain in a specified state or condition ▪ The city *lay* in ruins. ▪ The book was *lying* open on the desk. ▪ The factory continues to *lie* idle. ▪ dishes *lying* dirty in the sink **b** *always followed by an adverb or a preposition* : to be in a specified direction ▪ Our route *lay* to the west.

4 : to be located in a particular place ▪ The village *lies* in a peaceful valley. ▪ The river *lies* along the western edge of the mountains. ▪ Ohio *lies* east of Indiana. = Ohio *lies* to the east of Indiana. ▪ A ship was *lying* in the harbor. ▪ The mountains *lay* between us and our goal. — often used figuratively ▪ I don't know where the answer *lies*. [=I don't know where the answer can be found; I don't know what the answer is] ▪ He doesn't know where his future *lies*. [=he doesn't know what he will do in the future] ▪ The choice *lay* between fighting or surrendering. [=the choice was between fighting or surrendering] ▪ There is no question about where her loyalties *lie*. [=about which person, group, etc., she is loyal to] ▪ The problem *lies* in knowing what to do. ▪ I don't know what to do, and ***therein lies the problem***. [=that is the problem]

5 *Brit* : to be at a specified level in a competition ▪ They are *lying* third. = They are *lying* in third place. [=they are in third place]

how the land lies see ¹LAND

let sleeping dogs lie see ¹DOG

lie ahead : to be in the future ▪ No one knows what *lies ahead* (of us). [=no one knows what will happen (to us) in the future]

lie around *or Brit* ***lie about*** [*phrasal verb*] **1 a** : to be lying in a disordered way ▪ He always had a lot of clothes *lying around* his house. **b** : to be somewhere within a general area or place ▪ I know that pen is *lying around* here somewhere. **2** : to spend time resting in a lazy way ▪ She spent the whole day just *lying around*. ▪ My friends and I were *lying around* by the pool.

lie back [*phrasal verb*] : to lean backward from a sitting position to a flat position ▪ The doctor asked him to *lie back* on the table.

lie behind [*phrasal verb*] ***lie behind (something)*** : to be the cause of (something) ▪ Greed *lies behind* the higher prices.

lie down [*phrasal verb*] **1** : to move from a standing or sitting position to a flat position on a surface ▪ *Lie down* on the couch/bed. ▪ I'm tired. I'm going to *lie down*. ▪ The police ordered him to lay down his weapons and *lie down* on the ground. **2** ***lie down on the job*** : to fail to do your job : to neglect your responsibilities ▪ He says pollution has been getting worse because government regulators have been *lying down on the job*. **3** ✧ To ***take something lying down*** is to accept something bad, such as an insult or unfair treatment, without trying to fight against it. ▪ He vowed that he would not *take the court's decision lying down*. [=that he would fight against the court's decision]

lie in [*phrasal verb*] *Brit* : to stay in bed later than usual ▪ She likes to *lie in* [=*sleep in*] on Saturdays.

lie in state see ¹STATE

lie in wait see ²WAIT

lie low : to try not to be noticed : to stay hidden or inactive in order to avoid being noticed or found ▪ The prisoners had to *lie low* after their escape.

lie on/upon [*phrasal verb*] ***lie on/upon (someone or something)*** : to affect someone in a specified way ▪ Sorrow *lay* heavily *on* him. [=he felt very sad] ▪ Guilt *lies on* his conscience. [=he feels very guilty] ▪ Her years *lie* lightly *upon* her. [=she seems younger than she is]

lie with [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***lie with (someone or something)*** *not used in the progressive tenses* — used to say who has the blame or responsibility for something ▪ The blame *lies with* their mother for not watching them closely enough. ▪ Responsibility for the accident *lies with* the company. **2** ***lie with (someone)*** *literary* : to have sex with (someone) ▪ when he first *lay with* her

make your bed and lie in it see ¹BED

– compare ³LIE

²lie *noun, pl* **lies** [*count*] : the position in which something lies on the ground ▪ a golf ball in a difficult *lie* — see also LIE OF THE LAND — compare ⁴LIE

³lie *verb* **lies**; **lied**; **ly•ing** [*no obj*]

1 : to say or write something that is not true in order to deceive someone : to tell a lie ▪ I can't believe you *lied* to me. ▪ He has been accused of *lying* about his military record. ▪ She was *lying* when she told her parents that she had spent the afternoon studying. ▪ She was ***lying through her teeth***. [=she was saying something completely untrue] ▪ (*US, informal*) You can't trust that guy. He ***lies like a rug***. [=he lies constantly; he is dishonest]

2 : to indicate or suggest something that is not true or accurate ▪ Statistics sometimes *lie*. [=do not accurately reflect the

truth] ▪ You may think that you still look young, but the mirror never *lies*. [=the mirror shows how you really look]
– compare [1]LIE

[4]lie *noun, pl* **lies** [*count*] : something untrue that is said or written to deceive someone ▪ She told a *lie* to her parents. ▪ He has been accused of telling *lies* about his military record. ▪ a bold/brazen/barefaced *lie* ▪ a complete *lie* ▪ The accusations are *lies*, all *lies*. ▪ The claims he has made are nothing but a ***pack of lies***. ▪ (*chiefly Brit*) He has woven a ***tissue of lies*** [=he has told many lies] about his military record. — see also WHITE LIE

give the lie to *formal* : to show that (something) is not true ▪ Her success has *given the lie to* the notion that women cannot compete with men.

I tell a lie *Brit, informal* — used to correct something you have just said ▪ I saw him just yesterday. No, *I tell a lie*. It was two days ago.

live a lie : to live in a false or deceptive way : to live in a way that does not show who you truly are or what your feelings truly are ▪ Their friends thought that they had a happy marriage, but they were *living a lie*. [=their marriage was not happy]
– compare [2]LIE

lie detector *noun, pl* ~ **-tors** [*count*] : a device used to measure the heart rate, breathing, etc., in order to find out if someone (such as a person suspected of a crime) is being honest ▪ The murder suspect failed a *lie detector* test.

lie–down /ˈlaɪˌdaʊn/ *noun* [*singular*] *Brit* : a brief rest : NAP ▪ They often have a *lie-down* in the afternoon. — see also *lie down* at [1]LIE

liege /ˈliːʤ/ *noun, pl* **lieg·es** [*count*] : a lord in the time of the Middle Ages

lie–in /ˈlaɪˌɪn/ *noun* [*singular*] *Brit, informal* : a time in the morning spent lying in bed instead of getting up ▪ They had a nice long *lie-in* on the first morning of their holiday. — see also *lie in* at [1]LIE

lien /ˈliːn/ *noun, pl* **liens** [*count*] *law* : a legal claim that someone or something has on the property of another person until a debt has been paid back ▪ The bank had a *lien* on our house. [=the bank had the right to take our house if we did not pay back the money we had borrowed to buy it]

lie of the land *noun* [*singular*] *Brit* : LAY OF THE LAND

lieu /ˈluː, *Brit* ˈljuː/ *noun*

in lieu of : in place of : instead of ▪ *In lieu of* flowers, the family of the deceased has requested that donations be made to the church fund. ▪ You can use your ATM card *in lieu of* cash.

lieut. *abbr* lieutenant

lieu·ten·ant /luˈtɛnənt, *Brit* lɛfˈtɛnənt/ *noun, pl* **-ants** [*count*]

1 : an officer in the army, navy, or air force with a fairly low rank ▪ He was promoted to the rank of *lieutenant*. ▪ Good morning, *Lieutenant* Smith. — abbr. *Lt.*; see also FIRST LIEUTENANT, SECOND LIEUTENANT

2 *US* : an officer in a fire or police department who has a rank below a captain

3 : an assistant to another, more powerful person : a person who represents and works for someone else ▪ She has her best *lieutenants* working on a proposal. ▪ one of the mobster's most loyal *lieutenants*

lieutenant colonel *noun, pl* ~ **-nels** [*count*] : a military officer who has a rank just below a colonel

lieutenant commander *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] : an officer in the navy or coast guard who has a rank just below a commander

lieutenant general *noun, pl* ~ **-als** [*count*] : a military officer who has a rank just below a general

lieutenant governor *noun, pl* ~ **-nors** [*count*] : an elected official who is an assistant to the governor of a U.S. state

[1]life /ˈlaɪf/ *noun, pl* **lives** /ˈlaɪvz/

1 [*noncount*] : the ability to grow, change, etc., that separates plants and animals from things like water or rocks ▪ He believes that God gives *life* to all creatures. ▪ the miracle of *life* ▪ eternal/everlasting *life*

2 a : the period of time when a person is alive [*noncount*] She knew what she wanted to do ***early in life***. [=when she was young] ▪ He became famous relatively ***late in life***. [=at a relatively old age] ▪ He became famous ***later in life***. = He became famous ***in later life***. [*count*] She was happy and healthy for most of her *life*. ▪ The people in her family tend to have long/short *lives*. ▪ I've known her all my *life*. ▪ He is nearing the end of his *life*. ▪ They spent their whole/entire *lives* in one town. = They lived in one town all their *lives*. ▪ People can expect to change jobs several times in their *life/lives*. ▪ They've been waiting their whole/entire *life/lives* for an opportunity like this. ▪ This is the financial opportunity ***of his life***. [=*of his lifetime*; the best chance in his life to make money] **b** : the experience of being alive [*noncount*] What do you really want out of *life*? ▪ He believes in living *life* to the fullest. [=in living a very full and rich life] ▪ All this paperwork has made *life* much more difficult. ▪ The details of everyday/ordinary *life* can be fascinating. ▪ *life* in the city/country = city/country *life* ▪ Sometimes *life* just isn't fair. ▪ We can laugh at things in movies that would scare us in ***real life***. [=in a real situation; in actual existence] ▪ Oh well, ***that's life***! [=bad things will happen, and you have to deal with them] ▪ Despite the political upheaval, for most people ***life goes on*** as usual. [=the activities of life continue in the usual way] [*count*] What do you really want to do with your *life*? ▪ Her children say that she has ruined their *lives*. ▪ She talked about the men in her *life*. [=the men she has had a romantic or close relationship with during her life] ▪ She has dedicated/devoted *her life* to helping other people. ▪ All this paperwork has made my *life* much more difficult. ▪ They're trying to ***get/put their lives back together***. [=to begin living in a normal way after suffering loss, hardship, etc.] ▪ She was ***the love of my life***. [=the person I loved more than any other person at any time in my life] ▪ I've never heard such a silly idea ***in all my life***! [=at any time] = Never ***in my life*** have I heard such a silly idea! ▪ They're old enough to ***run/live their own lives***. [=to make their own decisions about how to live] ▪ After all the problems they've had recently, they just want to ***get/move on with their lives***. [=to continue living their lives in the usual way] ▪ I'm not surprised that I didn't get the job. That's ***the story of my life***. [=that's the way things usually or always happen in my life] — often used before another noun ▪ She told us her ***life story***. [=she told us about many of the things that had happened to her in her life] ▪ a lack of ***life experience*** [=experience and knowledge gained through living] ✧ If your ***life flashes/passes before your eyes*** or if your ***life flashes/passes before you***, many memories from different parts of your life quickly appear in your mind one after the other. ▪ Her *life flashed before her eyes* when her car was about to crash.

3 [*count*] **a** : a specified part of a person's life ▪ He talked about his *life* as an artist. ▪ the social *lives* of college students ▪ How's your love/sex *life*? ▪ They had difficult home *lives* when they were children. ▪ They are trying to keep their personal/private *lives* separate from their public *lives*. ▪ the responsibilities of their family *life* **b** : a specified way or manner of living ▪ He lived/led a *life* of crime. [=he was a criminal] ▪ They have lived/led sheltered *lives*. ▪ He is trying to make a better *life* for himself and his family. ✧ Your ***way of life*** is how you live your life. ▪ a fisherman's *way of life* ▪ Most people don't approve of my *way of life*. ▪ a traditional *way of life*

4 [*count*] : the state or condition of being alive ▪ They spared the horse's *life*. [=they did not kill the horse] ▪ She feels that her *life* is in danger. = She ***fears for her life***. = She is ***in fear for her life***. [=she feels that she is in danger of being killed] ▪ She ***risked her life*** [=she did something very dangerous that could have resulted in her death] to help him. ▪ She ***gave/sacrificed her life*** [=she did something that resulted in her death] for her country. ▪ He was ***running for his life***. [=he was running to escape from great danger] ▪ He is ***fighting for his life***. [=he is very sick or injured and may die] ▪ A would-be assassin ***made an attempt on the President's life***. [=tried to kill the President]

5 [*noncount*] : living things of a specified kind or in a specified place ▪ There may be a great deal of animal/plant *life* still to be discovered in this region. ▪ forest *life* ▪ ocean *life* ▪ Will we ever find intelligent *life* on other planets?

6 : the time when something can be used : the period when something exists or is useful or effective [*noncount*] battery *life* ▪ the *life* of an insurance policy ▪ They claim that using their product will extend the *life* of the car. ▪ a warranty that is good for the *life* of the product [*count*] a product that extends the *lives* of the rugs/cars — see also HALF-LIFE, SHELF LIFE

7 [*noncount*] **a** : energy and spirit ▪ eyes full of *life* ▪ (*informal*) suck the *life* out of a room [=take all the fun and energy out of a group of people in a room] **b** : activity and movement ▪ The streets were humming with *life*. [=the streets were filled with people and activity] ▪ There were no signs of *life* in the deserted village.

8 [*count*] : a book that tells about the life of a person : BIOG-

RAPHY • She wrote a *life* of Napoleon. • Boswell's *Life of Johnson*

9 [*noncount*] : the punishment of being kept in a prison for the rest of your life : LIFE IMPRISONMENT • He was found guilty and sentenced to *life*. = (*informal*) He got *life*. = He was given *life*.

a dog's life see ¹DOG

a life of its own ✧ Something that ***takes on a life of its own*** becomes very large, important, or hard to control. • The project soon *took on a life of its own* and prevented us from getting any other work done. • The story *took on a life of its own* and began to appear on news broadcasts everywhere.

all walks of life *or* ***every walk of life*** see ²WALK

a matter of life and death : something that is extremely important and often involves decisions that will determine whether someone lives or dies • Being prepared for severe weather can be *a matter of life and death*. — see also LIFE-AND-DEATH

a new lease on/of life see ¹LEASE

(as) big as life (*US*) *or chiefly Brit* ***(as) large as life*** *informal* : in person — used to describe the surprise of seeing someone • I never expected her to come to the party, but there she was, *as big as life*.

bet/stake your life on ✧ If you would *bet/stake your life on* something, you are very sure that it will happen. • "Will she keep her promise?" "I'd *bet/stake my life on* it!"

breathe (new) life into : to give new energy and excitement to (something) • She is credited with *breathing new life into* contemporary art. • The singer managed to *breathe life into* some tired old songs.

bring someone or something back to life : to cause someone or something that has died to begin living again • The story is about a mad scientist who tries to *bring* dead people *back to life*. — often used figuratively • They're trying to *bring* the restaurant *back to life* by introducing a new menu. • an old theory that is *being brought back to life*

bring something to life : to make something very interesting, appealing, or exciting • She *brings* history *to life* with her books.

come to life **1** : to become very interesting, appealing, or exciting • The movie really *comes to life* when she appears on the screen. **2** *of a place* : to become filled with the energy and excitement of active people • Downtown *comes to life* each night when the clubs open. **3** *or* ***sputter/roar (etc.) to life*** *of a machine* : to begin working • The engine suddenly *roared to life*.

depart this life see DEPART

for dear life : very tightly or quickly because of fear or danger • He was hanging/holding on to the rope *for dear life*. • They were running *for dear life* to get away from the vicious dogs.

for life : for the whole of your life : for the rest of your life • They met in college and have remained friends *for life*. • He was sentenced to prison *for life*.

for the life of me *informal* : in any way at all — used to say that you are unable to remember or understand something • I couldn't *for the life of me* remember what her name was. • *For the life of me*, I can't think of any reasons why you wouldn't want a computer at home.

frighten/scare the life out of *informal* : to frighten (someone) very badly • You (nearly) *scared the life out of* me when you startled me like that!

from life *of a painting, drawing, etc.* : from looking at an actual person, object, etc. • drawings done *from life* rather than from photographs

get a life *informal* : to stop spending time doing or thinking about things that are not important or interesting : to begin to have a more interesting or exciting life • My girlfriend's parents are nice people, but all they do is watch TV all day. They need to *get a life*.

larger than life see ¹LARGE

lay down your life see *lay down* at ¹LAY

life depends on ✧ If your *life depends on* something, then you must do it. • His *life depends on* how he answers this question. • He was studying as if his *life depended on* it. — often used in negative statements • I wouldn't eat that food if my *life depended on* it. [=I would never eat it]

lose your life : to die • She nearly *lost her life* in a car accident. • Many *lives were lost*. [=many people died]

new life ✧ When something ***takes on (a) new life*** or when you ***give something new life*** or ***give new life to something***, it becomes more active, interesting, etc. • Plain old mashed potatoes *take on a new life* in this recipe. • Falling interest rates *gave new life to* the housing market.

not on your life *informal* — used as a very forceful way of saying "no" or "never" • Do the government's policies really help the average worker? *Not on your life*.

risk life and limb : to do something that is very dangerous • They *risked life and limb* to pull the child from the river.

save someone's life see ¹SAVE

spring into/to life see ²SPRING

staff of life see ¹STAFF

such is life see ²SUCH

take/claim someone's life : to cause someone's death • Two years ago he was diagnosed with the illness that eventually *took his life*. • The flood *claimed many lives*. [=caused the deaths of many people]

take your own life : to kill yourself • He threatened to *take his own life* [=*commit suicide*], but no one believed him.

the life of the party (*US*) *or chiefly Brit* ***the life and soul of the party*** : someone who is very lively and amusing at a party or other social gathering

the light of your life see ¹LIGHT

the next life *or* ***the life to come*** : a life that is believed by some people to come after death • He believed that he would see his family again in *the next life*.

the simple life see SIMPLE

to save your life see ¹SAVE

true to life see ¹TRUE

– see also FACT OF LIFE, GOOD LIFE, SLICE-OF-LIFE, STILL LIFE

²life *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : of or relating to life • the *life* force in all things

2 : done as long as a person lives : existing or lasting throughout a person's life • a *life* [=*lifelong*] member • my *life* savings [=all the money I have saved in my life] • He was given a *life* sentence in prison.

life–af•firm•ing /ˈlaɪfəˌfɚmɪŋ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : indicating that life has value : positive and optimistic • Even though the heroine dies at the end, her struggle for a better world gives the movie a *life-affirming* message.

life–and–death *adj* : extremely important and serious especially because your survival or life may depend on success • They were engaged in a *life-and-death* struggle. • He plays every game like it's *life-and-death*. — see also *a matter of life and death* at ¹LIFE

life assurance *noun* [*noncount*] *Brit* : LIFE INSURANCE

life•blood /ˈlaɪfˌblʌd/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : the most important part of something : the part of something that provides its strength and energy • The town's *lifeblood* has always been its fishing industry. • The neighborhoods are the *lifeblood* of this city.

2 *literary* : a person's blood • the *lifeblood* that flows through his veins

life•boat /ˈlaɪfˌboʊt/ *noun, pl* **-boats** [*count*] : a boat used for saving people's lives; *especially* : a small boat that is carried on a ship and that is used for saving the lives of the passengers and crew if the ship sinks

life buoy *noun, pl* ~ **buoys** [*count*] : a ring-shaped device that floats in water and that is used to keep a person from drowning

life cycle *noun, pl* ~ **cycles** [*count*] *biology* : the series of stages through which a living thing passes from the beginning of its life until its death • the *life cycle* of a shark

life expectancy *noun, pl* ~ **-cies** : the average number of years that a person or animal can expect to live [*noncount*] improvements in diet that have resulted in greater *life expectancy* for many people [*count*] calculating the *life expectancies* of different social groups — often used figuratively • What is the *life expectancy* of a new computer? [=how long can a new computer be expected to last or be useful?]

life form *noun, pl* ~ **forms** [*count*] : a living thing of any kind • searching for alien *life forms* • higher *life forms* = more complex *life forms* • primitive/simple *life forms*

life–giv•ing /ˈlaɪfˌgɪvɪŋ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : giving or having power to create or support life : essential to life • the sun's *life-giving* energy

life•guard /ˈlaɪfˌgɑɚd/ *noun, pl* **-guards** [*count*] : a person whose job is to protect swimmers from drowning

life history *noun, pl* ~ **-ries** [*count*] *biology* : the full range of changes, habits, and behaviors of a living thing over the course of its life • studying the *life history* of bears

life imprisonment *noun* [*noncount*] : the punishment of being kept in a prison for the rest of your life • The murderer was sentenced to *life imprisonment*.

life insurance *noun* [*noncount*] : a type of insurance that pays money to the family of someone who has died

life jacket *noun, pl* ~ **-ets** [*count*] : something that is worn over your upper body like a jacket or vest and that is designed to save you from drowning by holding you up when you are in water — called also (*US*) *life vest*



life jacket

life•less /ˈlaɪfləs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having no life: such as **a** : having no living things ▪ a cold and *lifeless* landscape **b** : dead or appearing to be dead ▪ a *lifeless* body **c** : lacking spirit, interest, or energy ▪ The book's plot was *lifeless* and predictable.
– **life•less•ly** *adv* ▪ His arms fell *lifelessly* to his sides. – **life•less•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

life•like /ˈlaɪfˌlaɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : looking like a real person or thing ▪ a very *lifelike* doll ▪ The graphics in the video game are more *lifelike* than we imagined they would be. ▪ a *lifelike* portrait

life•line /ˈlaɪfˌlaɪn/ *noun, pl* **-lines** [*count*]
1 : something which provides help or support that is needed for success or survival ▪ The river is the town's *lifeline*. ▪ The new jobs were an economic *lifeline* for a city in need of help. ▪ The radio was their *lifeline* to the outside world.
2 : a rope used for saving the life of someone (such as someone who has fallen into water) ▪ They threw a *lifeline* to the man overboard.

life•long /ˈlaɪfˌlɑːŋ/ *adj, always used before a noun* : continuing or lasting through a person's life ▪ He had a *lifelong* love of nature. ▪ a *lifelong* friendship

life of Ri•ley /-ˈraɪli/ *noun*
the life of Riley *informal + somewhat old-fashioned* : a happy and comfortable life with few problems ▪ He's been living/leading *the life of Riley*.

life–or–death *adj* : LIFE-AND-DEATH ▪ a *life-or-death* struggle

life peer *noun, pl* ~ **peers** [*count*] : a British peer (sense 2) who has the title "Lord" or "Lady" for life but cannot pass it on to another person after death

life preserver *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a floating device that is designed to save you from drowning

lif•er /ˈlaɪfɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *informal*
1 *US* : a person who spends an entire career in the same job ▪ He was a *lifer* at the factory. ▪ an army *lifer*
2 : a criminal who has been sentenced to spend the rest of his or her life in prison ▪ *lifers* seeking parole

life raft *noun, pl* ~ **rafts** [*count*] : a small rubber boat designed for saving the lives of people when a larger boat or ship sinks

life•sav•er /ˈlaɪfˌseɪvɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]
1 : something that saves a person's life ▪ a surgical procedure that has been a *lifesaver* for many people
2 : something or someone which provides help that is badly needed ▪ This multipurpose tool can be a real *lifesaver* when something needs fixing. ▪ Frozen dinners can be *lifesavers* for busy parents. ▪ Thanks so much for offering to help. You're a real *lifesaver*!
3 *chiefly Australia* : LIFEGUARD

[1]life•sav•ing /ˈlaɪfˌseɪvɪŋ/ *adj, always used before a noun* : designed for or used in saving people's lives ▪ a *lifesaving* surgical procedure

[2]lifesaving *noun* [*noncount*] : the skills needed to save the lives of people who are drowning ▪ All lifeguards are trained in *lifesaving*.

life science *noun, pl* ~ **-ences** [*count*] : an area of science that deals with living things and life processes — usually plural ▪ *life sciences* such as biology and medicine

life sentence *noun, pl* ~ **-tences** [*count*] : the punishment of being sent to prison for the rest of your life ▪ He received a *life sentence* for his crimes.

life–size /ˈlaɪfˈsaɪz/ *also* **life–sized** /ˈlaɪfˈsaɪzd/ *adj* : having the same size as a real person or thing ▪ a *life-size* image of a dog ▪ a *life-size* model of a dinosaur ▪ The statue was nearly twice *life-size*.

life span *noun, pl* ~ **spans** [*count*] : the amount of time that a person or animal actually lives ▪ the average *life span* of house cats ▪ increase/lengthen the human *life span* — often used figuratively ▪ Recharging can extend the *life span* of a battery. ▪ the *life span* of a building/appliance ▪ the *life span* of a controversy

life•style /ˈlaɪfˌstajəl/ *noun, pl* **-styles** [*count*] : a particular way of living : the way a person lives or a group of people live ▪ She envied the lavish *lifestyles* of wealthy people. ▪ Eating right and exercising are essential to having/leading/living a healthy *lifestyle*.

life support *noun* [*noncount*]
1 *medical* : the equipment, material, and treatment needed to keep a very sick or hurt patient alive ▪ He was removed from *life support*. ▪ She was put/kept ***on life support***.
2 : the things that are needed to keep someone alive in a place (such as outer space) where life is usually not possible ▪ equipment providing *life support* for astronauts
– **life–support** /ˈlaɪfsəˌpoɚt/ *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ *life-support* equipment/machines ▪ There was a problem with the submarine's *life-support* system.

life–sus•tain•ing /ˈlaɪfsəˌsteɪnɪŋ/ *adj* : helping someone or something to stay alive : supporting or extending life ▪ *life-sustaining* medical treatment ▪ The storm brought *life-sustaining* rain/water to the farms.

life's work *also US* **life•work** /ˈlaɪfˈwɚk/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the entire or main work of a person's life ▪ She made photography her *life's work*.

life–threat•en•ing /ˈlaɪfˌθrɛtn̩ɪŋ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : capable of causing someone's death ▪ a *life-threatening* disease/emergency ▪ The injury wasn't *life-threatening*.

life•time /ˈlaɪfˌtaɪm/ *noun, pl* **-times** [*count*]
1 a : the time during which a person is alive ▪ Four editions of the book were printed in his *lifetime*. [=during his life] ▪ She has had a *lifetime* of hard work. [=she has worked hard all her life] ▪ a *lifetime* spent traveling the world ▪ I don't think it will happen in our *lifetime*. [=the time when we are alive] ▪ She owns enough shoes to last (her) a *lifetime*. [=to last for the rest of her life] ▪ the thrill ***of a lifetime*** [=a great thrill; the most exciting moment or event of a person's life] ▪ This is the opportunity *of a lifetime*. = This sort of opportunity comes along ***once in a lifetime***. [=this is a very rare opportunity] — often used before another noun ▪ He won a *lifetime* supply of ice cream. [=free ice cream for the rest of his life] ▪ She was presented with a *lifetime* achievement award. [=an award for all the work she has done in her life] ▪ a baseball player's *lifetime* batting average [=batting average measured over a baseball player's full career] **b** : a very long time ▪ It would have taken me a *lifetime* to read all those books. ▪ Childhood seems a *lifetime* ago now!
2 : the time during which something lasts or is useful ▪ a chemical with a *lifetime* of only a few minutes ▪ the *lifetime* of a planet/star/comet

life vest *noun, pl* ~ **vests** [*count*] *US* : LIFE JACKET

[1]lift /ˈlɪft/ *verb* **lifts**; **lift•ed**; **lift•ing**
1 a [+ *obj*] : to move (something or someone) to a higher position : RAISE ▪ The paramedics *lifted* the stretcher into the ambulance. ▪ *lift* a bucket of water ▪ He *lifted* his foot from/off the gas pedal. ▪ He *lifted* his pen from the paper. ▪ She *lifted* her hands to the sky. ▪ She *lifted* the child (up) onto her lap. ▪ He *lifted* his head (up) and looked at us. ▪ She *lifted* (up) the lid of the box. **b** [*no obj*] : to rise up from the ground or some other surface ▪ The balloon *lifted* [=*rose*] into the sky.
2 [+ *obj*] : to move (someone or something) to a higher condition or position ▪ The story *lifted* him to national recognition. ▪ *lifting* people from poverty
3 ✧ If your ***spirits lift*** or your ***mood lifts*** or if something ***lifts your spirits/mood***, you become happier or less sad. ▪ The beauty of the sunrise *lifted her spirits*. = Her *spirits lifted* when she saw the beauty of the sunrise.
4 ✧ When a ***weight/load/burden has been lifted from your shoulders/back***, you are able to stop worrying about some large problem or responsibility. ▪ After I finally told my mother about my concerns, I felt as if a *weight had been lifted from my shoulders*. [=I felt very relieved]
5 [+ *obj*] : to increase the amount of (something) ▪ The company has been trying to improve the quality of its products without *lifting* [=(more commonly) *raising*] prices.
6 [+ *obj*] : to make (your voice) louder ▪ He barely *lifted* [=*raised*] his voice above a whisper. ▪ The preacher told them to *lift* (up) their voices and sing.
7 [+ *obj*] *informal* **a** : to take (an idea, plan, etc.) *from* another source often in a way that is wrong ▪ The plot of the movie was *lifted* [=*taken*] *from* real life. ▪ an idea *lifted from* another novel **b** : to steal (something) ▪ Somebody *lifted* her purse when she wasn't looking. **c** : to take (something) out

of a normal position or setting ▪ *lift* a word out of context
8 [+ *obj*] : to stop or remove (something, such as a rule that prevents people from doing something) often for only a short time ▪ *lift* a blockade ▪ The city has temporarily *lifted* its ban on smoking in bars.
9 [*no obj*] *of fog, clouds, or smoke* : to move up and disappear so that it is possible to see ▪ You can see the mountains when the clouds *lift*. ▪ We were shocked by what we saw when the fog/smoke finally *lifted*. [=*cleared*]
10 [+ *obj*] : to move (someone or something) from one place to another in an aircraft : AIRLIFT ▪ troops being *lifted* into enemy territory ▪ supplies being *lifted* to remote areas
lift a finger see ¹FINGER
lift down [*phrasal verb*] ***lift (something) down*** *also* ***lift down (something)*** : to pick up (something) in order to move it to a lower position ▪ I had to *lift* the box *down* from the top shelf to the floor.
lift off [*phrasal verb*] *of an airplane, rocket, etc.* : to rise up from the ground or another surface ▪ planes *lifting off* from the runway ▪ Thousands of spectators watched as the space shuttle *lifted off*. — see also LIFTOFF
lift weights : to exercise by lifting heavy objects (such as barbells) in order to become stronger ▪ He has been *lifting weights* for exercise.
– **lift•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ a mechanical *lifter* — see also WEIGHT LIFTER

²lift *noun, pl* **lifts**
1 [*count*] : the act of raising or lifting something ▪ a slight *lift* of his eyebrows
2 [*count*] : a free ride in a vehicle ▪ Can I give you a *lift*? = Do you need a *lift*? ▪ I need a *lift* to the bus station. ▪ I got/hitched a *lift* [=(*US*) *ride*] home after the party.
3 [*count*] **a** *Brit* : ELEVATOR 1 ▪ We took the *lift* to the fifth floor. **b** : SKI LIFT
4 [*singular*] **a** : a feeling of greater happiness ▪ Her visit really gave me the *lift* I needed. [=made me feel better and happier] ▪ The coach's speech gave the team a psychological *lift*. **b** : an improved state or condition ▪ He claims that a tax cut will give the economy a *lift*. [=will improve the economy]
5 [*noncount*] *technical* : an upward force that makes it possible for aircraft to fly ▪ a wing design that generates more *lift*

lift•off /ˈlɪftˌɑːf/ *noun, pl* **-offs** : the upward movement from the ground by a rocket, helicopter, or space vehicle as it begins flight [*noncount*] moments after *liftoff* ▪ We have *liftoff*! [*count*] a series of successful *liftoffs* ▪ Thousand of spectators gathered to watch the *liftoff* of the space shuttle. — see also *lift off* at ¹LIFT

lig•a•ment /ˈlɪgəmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments** [*count*] : a tough piece of tissue in your body that holds bones together or keeps an organ in place ▪ He sprained/tore *ligaments* in his knee. — compare TENDON

¹light /ˈlaɪt/ *noun, pl* **lights**
1 [*noncount*] : the form of energy that makes it possible to see things : the brightness produced by the sun, by fire, a lamp, etc. ▪ The *light* was bright/dazzling. ▪ The landscape was bathed/awash in *light*. ▪ a ray/shaft/beam of *light* ▪ a source of *light* = a *light* source ▪ a photograph taken in low/dim *light* ▪ the *light* of the moon ▪ a mixture of *light* and shadow ▪ The windows let fresh air and *light* into the room. ▪ a plant that grows best in direct/indirect *light* [=with light shining directly/indirectly on it] ▪ ***natural light*** [=sunlight] ▪ ***artificial light*** [=light produced by electric lamps] — sometimes used figuratively ▪ He hates the harsh *light* of publicity.
2 [*count*] **a** : a source of light (such as an electric lamp) ▪ turn/switch on/off the *light* ▪ a fluorescent *light* ▪ a *light* fixture [=a lamp that is permanently attached to a wall, ceiling, etc.] ▪ a warning *light* ▪ The *lights* suddenly went out. ▪ The *lights* suddenly came on. ▪ the twinkling *lights* of the city below ▪ the bright *lights* of Broadway ▪ a *light* switch [=a switch for turning lights on and off] ▪ The *lights* are on, so there must be somebody at home. — see also NIGHTLIGHT **b** : a light on a vehicle ▪ His car's battery died because he left his *lights* on.
3 [*singular*] : a way of showing or understanding something or someone ▪ The situation looks less serious when looked at in a certain *light*. [=in a certain way] ▪ I see things ***in a different light*** now. [=I see/understand things differently now] ▪ The defendants were shown/depicted ***in a bad light*** [=in a way that made them seem bad] by the lawyer. ▪ The news about his marital problems does not place/put him ***in a good light*** [=does not make him appear to be a good person] ▪ She tried to explain her behavior ***in the best light*** possible. [=in a way that would make her appear as good as possible]
4 [*count*] : a light or set of lights used to control traffic : TRAFFIC LIGHT ▪ Turn left at the next *light*. ▪ The *light* was red. ▪ We were waiting for the *light* to turn green.
5 [*singular*] *informal* : a flame for lighting a cigarette ▪ I need a *light* for my cigarette. ▪ Do you have a *light*? ▪ I didn't have any matches, but a stranger gave me a *light*. [=lit my cigarette for me]
6 [*noncount*] *formal* : DAYLIGHT 1 ▪ Things look different by ***the light of day***. ▪ We woke up ***at first light*** [=at dawn; at sunrise; when the sun came up] — see also SEE THE LIGHT OF DAY (below)
7 [*singular*] : a quality in a person's eyes that shows emotion ▪ I saw the *light* of recognition in her eye.
8 *lights* [*plural*] **a** : light colors : colors that are more white than black ▪ the composition of *lights* and darks in the painting/photograph **b** : light-colored clothes ▪ Wash the *lights* and the darks separately.
according to your lights *formal* : according to your idea of what is right ▪ You know my views on the matter; but of course you must act *according to your* (own) *lights*. [=you must be guided by your own opinions about what is right]
a light at the end of the tunnel : a reason to believe that a bad situation will end soon or that a long and difficult job will be finished soon ▪ They are falling deeper into debt, and there is no *light at the end of the tunnel*. ▪ The work on our house has been going on for months, but we're finally starting to see a *light at the end of the tunnel*.
bring (something) to light : to tell people about (something) : to make (something) known ▪ Many new facts were *brought to light* during the investigation.
cast/shed/throw light on : to help to explain (something) : to make it possible to understand or know more about (something) ▪ She is developing new theories that might *shed* some *light on* these unusual phenomena. ▪ I hope my explanation *throws light on* their behavior.
come to light : to become known ▪ Other details have *come to light* because of this investigation. ▪ She was angry when it *came to light* that some people were being promoted unfairly.
hide your light under a bushel see BUSHEL
in someone's light : blocking the light that someone needs to see or read something ▪ She asked him to move back a few steps because he was *in her light*.
in the cold light of day see ¹COLD
in the light of *or US* ***in light of*** **1** : while thinking about (something that affects the way you see or understand things) ▪ You should think about their advice *in light of* your own needs. ▪ It is impossible to come to a conclusion *in the light of* the data we have here. ▪ You should read the story *in light of* your own experiences. **2** : because of (something) ▪ It's a particularly important topic *in light of* recent events.
light dawns ✧ When people suddenly understand something that they had not understood before, ***(a/the) light dawns (on them)***. ▪ When she saw the guilty look on her husband's face, a *light dawned*, and she knew he had been lying to her.
more heat than light see ¹HEAT
out like a light *informal* **1** : ASLEEP ▪ As soon as my head hit the pillow, I was *out like a light*. **2** : UNCONSCIOUS ▪ He took one punch to the jaw and was *out like a light*.
punch someone's lights out see ¹PUNCH
see the light *informal* : to suddenly understand or realize the truth of something ▪ Many people doubted his theory, but most of them have now finally *seen the light*. [=most of them now realize that his theory is correct]
see the light of day **1** : to be seen or used ▪ our fine china, which hasn't *seen the light of day* in at least 10 years **2** : to become publicly known ▪ Important documents in this case have never *seen the light of day*. ▪ Her theory first *saw the light of day* in a well-respected magazine.
set light to *chiefly Brit* : to cause (something) to begin burning ▪ used a match to *set light to* [=*set fire to*] the paper
the light of your life : a person you love very much and who makes you happy ▪ His daughter is *the light of his life*.
trip the light fantastic see ²TRIP
– see also GREEN LIGHT, LEADING LIGHT, NORTHERN LIGHTS, SOUTHERN LIGHTS, *sweetness and light* at SWEETNESS

²light *adj* **light•er; -est**
1 : not dark or deep in color : PALE ▪ *light* blue ▪ She has a *light* complexion. ▪ He has *light* [=*fair*] skin/hair.
2 a : having a lot of light : BRIGHT ▪ a *light* and airy room **b**

: having the light of the day ▪ We're planning to leave as soon as it's *light*. [=as soon as there is daylight] ▪ We're hoping to arrive while it's still *light* out. [=to arrive before night has fallen] ▪ In summer it ***gets light*** earlier and ***stays light*** later than in winter.
– compare ⁴LIGHT

³light *verb* **lights; light•ed** *or* **lit** /ˈlɪt/; **light•ing**
1 [+ *obj*] : to provide light for (something) ▪ They used candles to *light* the room. = They *lighted/lit* the room with candles. ▪ a dimly/poorly *lit* room ▪ a brightly *lit* room ▪ a well-*lighted* place ▪ Our guide used a candle to ***light the way***. [=to show the way that had to be followed]
2 a [+ *obj*] : to cause (something) to burn ▪ *light* a match/candle ▪ I *lit* (up) a cigarette for him. = I *lit* him a cigarette. — see also LIGHT UP 3 (below) **b** [*no obj*] : to begin to burn ▪ waiting for the wood to *light*
light a fire under (someone) *US, informal* : to cause (someone) to move or work more quickly and effectively ▪ I've never seen him work so hard. Someone must have *lit a fire under him*.
light into [*phrasal verb*] ***light into (someone)*** *US, informal* : to attack or criticize (someone) forcefully ▪ He *lit into* his employees for their sloppy work. [=he criticized them very harshly] ▪ She *lit into* her opponent and did not let up.
light on/upon [*phrasal verb*] ***light on/upon (something)*** : to find or see (something) by chance ▪ Researchers have *lit upon* [=*found*] a solution. ▪ His eye *lit on* a story in the newspaper.
light out [*phrasal verb*] *US, informal* : to leave in a hurry for someplace ▪ He suddenly *lit out* for home.
light up [*phrasal verb*] **1 a** *of a light* : to become lit : to begin shining ▪ All of the lights on the display suddenly *lit up*. — often used figuratively ▪ His eyes/face *lit up* [=he looked very happy and pleased] when she walked in the room. **b** *informal, of a telephone* : to show a light indicating that someone is calling ▪ When the DJ announced a contest, the phones *lit up*. [=the lights on the phones lit up because many people were calling] **2** ***light (something) up*** *or* ***light up (something)*** : to provide light for (something) : to fill (something) with light ▪ *light up* a room = *light* a room *up* ▪ Fireworks *lit up* the sky. — often used figuratively ▪ A smile *lights up* her whole face. [=a smile makes her whole face look happy and radiant] ▪ Her smile *lights up* the room. [=she has an extremely bright and attractive smile] **3** *informal* : to light a cigarette ▪ I can't wait to *light up* [=smoke a cigarette] after work.

⁴light *adj* **lighter; -est**
1 a : not heavy : having little weight or less than usual weight ▪ This suitcase is *light* enough for a child to carry. ▪ The truck was carrying a *light* load. ▪ "How heavy is it?" "Not very: it's actually quite *light*." ▪ It's very *light* in weight. = It's of very *light* weight. ▪ This box is *lighter* than I thought it would be. ▪ She would like to be a few pounds *lighter*. = She would like to be *lighter* by a few pounds. [=she would like to weigh less than she does by a few pounds] ▪ Aluminum is a *light* metal. ▪ lifting *light* weights ▪ This box is ***as light as a feather***. [=very light] **b** : small in size and weight ▪ He has a *light* build.
2 a : less in amount or degree than usual ▪ Only a *light* turnout is expected for the election. ▪ Traffic was *light* this morning. ▪ I have only a *light* course load this semester. ▪ The stock market was slightly up today in *light* trading. ▪ *light* rain/snow ▪ She was wearing *light* makeup. ▪ *light* perfume **b** : not strong or violent : MODERATE ▪ a *light* breeze **c** : not great or large ▪ The storm caused only *light* [=*slight*] damage. [=the storm did not cause much damage] ▪ *light* competition ▪ Casualties have so far been *light*. **d** : not difficult to accept or bear ▪ a *light* responsibility : not harsh or severe ▪ *light* punishment ▪ He was given a surprisingly *light* sentence for his crimes. **e** : slight or minor in degree or effect ▪ She has a *light* cold. ▪ *light* discipline ▪ These shrubs require only a little *light* pruning. — opposite HEAVY
3 : not involving a lot of physical effort ▪ *light* lifting ▪ doing a little *light* housework ▪ *light* exercise/exertion ▪ a *light* practice session ▪ It's a big job, but ***many hands make light work*** [=if many people work on it, it will be easier to do] — opposite HEAVY
4 : not loud or forceful ▪ *light* footsteps ▪ a *light* tread ▪ a *light* touch ▪ just a *light* tap on the ball/shoulder — opposite HEAVY
5 : not important or serious : intended mainly for entertainment ▪ doing some *light* reading — opposite HEAVY
6 : not dense and thick ▪ He has a *light* beard. ▪ a *light* growth of timber ▪ an animal's *light* summer coat ▪ *light* fog/smoke ▪ *light* soil — opposite HEAVY
7 : made with thin cloth and not very warm ▪ a *light* coat/blanket — opposite HEAVY
8 a : eating, drinking, or using a small amount of something ▪ He's a *light* eater/smoker/drinker/user. ▪ *light* alcohol consumption **b** : producing a small amount of something ▪ a shrub that is a *light* bloomer [=a shrub that does not produce many flowers] **c** : not done often or in large amounts ▪ *light* smoking — opposite HEAVY
9 a : not having a large amount of food : not making your stomach feel full ▪ We ate a *light* lunch. ▪ a *light* snack **b** : made with fewer calories or with less of some ingredient than usual ▪ *light* beer **c** : not rich, dense, or thick ▪ *light* cream ▪ *light* syrup — opposite HEAVY
10 a : designed to carry a small load or few passengers ▪ a *light* truck ▪ a refueling point for ***light aircraft*** **b** : not as large and powerful as other weapons, machines, etc. ▪ *light* artillery ▪ *light* machinery **c** *of a group of soldiers* : having fewer and smaller weapons and less armor than other groups but able to move quickly ▪ *light* infantry/cavalry
light on : having or using a small amount of (something) ▪ a essay that is *light on* facts but heavy on speculation ▪ She asked him to ***go light on*** the mustard. [=to not use a large amount of mustard]
light on your feet : capable of moving in a quick and graceful way ▪ He's very *light on his feet* for such a big person.
light sleeper : someone who wakes up easily ▪ She's a very *light sleeper*. The slightest noise will wake her.
make light of : to treat (something, such as a problem) in a joking way : to not be serious about (something important) ▪ I don't mean to *make light of* this very serious issue. ▪ He *made light of* his recent losses—but you could tell he was worried about them.
– compare ²LIGHT
– **light•ness** /ˈlaɪtnəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *lightness* of the boxes ▪ the *lightness* [=*delicacy, tenderness*] of her touch ▪ the playful *lightness* of his manner ▪ the *lightness* of her movements

⁵light *adv* **lighter; -est**
eat light *US* : to eat foods that will not cause you to gain weight ▪ She is careful to *eat light* and exercise often.
travel light : to travel with little baggage ▪ savvy vacationers who have learned to *travel light*

light bulb *noun, pl* ~ **bulbs** [*count*] : a glass bulb or tube that produces light when it is supplied with electricity ▪ change a *light bulb* that has burned out — called also *bulb*
a light bulb goes off/on *chiefly US, informal* ✧ When *a light bulb goes off/on* (*in your head*), you suddenly understand something or have a great idea. ▪ After thinking about the problem for several days, a *light bulb went off in her head*, and she knew how to solve it.

¹light•en /ˈlaɪtn̩/ *verb* **-ens; -ened; -en•ing**
1 [+ *obj*] : to make (something) bright, light, or clear ▪ She tried several dyes to *lighten* her hair. ▪ He turned on a few lamps to *lighten* (up) the room.
2 [*no obj*] : to become bright, light, or clear ▪ The sky *lightened* [=*brightened*] as the clouds began to move away but darkened again when the clouds returned.
– compare ²LIGHTEN
– **light•en•er** /ˈlaɪtn̩ɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ a hair/skin *lightener* [=a chemical or dye used to make a person's hair or skin less dark]

²lighten *verb* **-ens; -ened; -en•ing**
1 a [+ *obj*] : to make (something) less heavy, difficult, or severe ▪ *lighten* a burden ▪ Others helped out and *lightened* his load. ▪ *lightening* her duties around the house **b** [*no obj*] : to become less heavy, difficult, or severe ▪ His workload has *lightened* in recent weeks.
2 a [+ *obj*] : to make (something) less sad or serious ▪ He told a few jokes in an attempt to *lighten* her mood. ▪ *lighten* the atmosphere/conversation **b** [*no obj*] : to become less sad or serious ▪ Her somber mood gradually *lightened* [=*brightened*] as the weather improved.
3 [*no obj*] : to become less forceful ▪ The wind *lightened* a bit.
lighten up [*phrasal verb*] *informal* : to become more relaxed and informal : to stop being serious, worried, etc. ▪ He really needs to *lighten up* and relax a little. — often used as a command ▪ *Lighten up* (a bit) and enjoy yourself!
– compare ¹LIGHTEN

light•er /ˈlaɪtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a small device that produces a flame used for lighting something (such as a ciga-

rette) • a cigarette *lighter* • ***lighter fluid*** [=the liquid in a lighter that is its fuel]

lighter–than–air *adj* : able to float in the air • a *lighter-than-air* balloon

light–fin•gered /ˈlaɪtˌfɪŋgɚd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : skillful at stealing things • He discovered his wallet had been taken by some *light-fingered* thief.

light–foot•ed /ˈlaɪtˌfʊtəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : able to move in a quick and graceful way • a *light-footed* dancer

light–head•ed /ˈlaɪtˌhɛdəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : unable to think and move in a normal way because of a weak and dizzy feeling • I began to feel *light-headed* from lack of sleep. • Standing up too quickly usually makes her *light-headed*.
– **light–head•ed•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] • The patient complained of *light-headedness*. [=*dizziness*]

light•heart•ed /ˈlaɪtˌhɑɚtəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : having or showing a cheerful and happy nature • a *lighthearted* mood • a *lighthearted* young woman
2 : not serious • a *lighthearted* comedy
– **light•heart•ed•ly** *adv* – **light•heart•ed•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

light heavyweight *noun, pl* ~ **-weights** [*count*] : a fighter who is in a class of boxers with an upper weight limit of 175 pounds (79.5 kilograms) : a boxer who is heavier than a middleweight and lighter than a heavyweight

light•house /ˈlaɪtˌhaʊs/ *noun, pl* **-hous•es** [*count*] : a tower with a powerful light that is built on or near the shore to guide ships away from danger

light industry *noun* [*noncount*] : the production of small goods that will be sold to the people who use them rather than to another manufacturer — compare HEAVY INDUSTRY

light•ing /ˈlaɪtɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 a : light that is of a particular kind or that has a particular quality • He prefers natural *lighting* for his photography. • artificial *lighting* • The *lighting* wasn't bright enough. • The street *lighting* was so dim I got lost. **b** : the equipment used to provide light • There was a problem with the *lighting*. • a company that sells *lighting* equipment
2 : the use of light for a particular purpose in a movie, play, etc. • He's in charge of the *lighting* for the show.

light•ly /ˈlaɪtli/ *adv* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : in a light manner: such as **a** : with little weight or force • The rain fell *lightly* [=*softly*] on the roof. • She touched his hand *lightly*. [=*gently*] • The recipe says that you should beat the eggs *lightly*. [=*gently*] **b** : without care or concern : in a way that is not serious • He talks *lightly* about the problems he's been having at work. • This is a problem that should not be ***taken lightly***. [=this is a problem that should be treated seriously] **c** : in a quick and graceful way • She moved *lightly* across the room. **d** : in a small amount : to a small degree or extent • *lightly* [=*slightly*] salted/roasted peanuts • *lightly* buttered toast • These vegetables can be eaten either raw or *lightly* cooked. • a *lightly* populated area • Our troops were armed too *lightly* to take on the heavily armed invaders. **e** : in a way that is not as harsh or severe as it could or should be • Considering the harm he did, he's ***gotten off lightly*** with only a warning. • The judge ***let her off lightly*** with a short sentence.

light meter *noun, pl* ~ **meters** [*count*] : a small device used by photographers to measure the amount of light in an area

[1]light•ning /ˈlaɪtnɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the flashes of light that are produced in the sky during a storm • a bolt of *lightning* = a *lightning* bolt • a flash of *lightning* • The tree was hit/struck by *lightning*. = The tree was hit by a ***lightning strike***. — compare THUNDER; see also HEAT LIGHTNING

catch/capture lightning in a bottle *chiefly US* : to succeed in a way that is very lucky or unlikely • He *caught lightning in a bottle* with the success of his very first book.

lightning never strikes (the same place) twice — used to say that a very unusual event is not likely to happen again to the same person or in the same place

like (greased) lightning *informal* : very quickly • The news traveled across the country *like lightning*. • moving *like greased lightning*

[2]lightning *adj, always used before a noun* : moving or done very quickly • thoughts moving at *lightning* speed
– **lightning** *adv* — used in combination • an athlete with *lightning*-quick reflexes • making *lightning*-fast adjustments

lightning bug *noun, pl* ~ **bugs** [*count*] *US* : FIREFLY

lightning conductor *noun, pl* ~ **-tors** [*count*] *Brit* : LIGHTNING ROD 1

lightning rod *noun, pl* ~ **rods** [*count*] *US*
1 : a metal rod that is placed on a building and connected with the ground below to protect the building from being damaged by lightning
2 : someone or something that attracts criticism or gets blamed when things go wrong • He has served well as his boss's *lightning rod*. [=he takes blame or criticism that might have been directed at his boss] — often + *for* • He has long been a *lightning rod for* controversy/criticism. • The company has become a *lightning rod for* the public's anger.

lightning strike *noun, pl* ~ **strikes** [*count*] *Brit* : a strike by workers that is done very suddenly

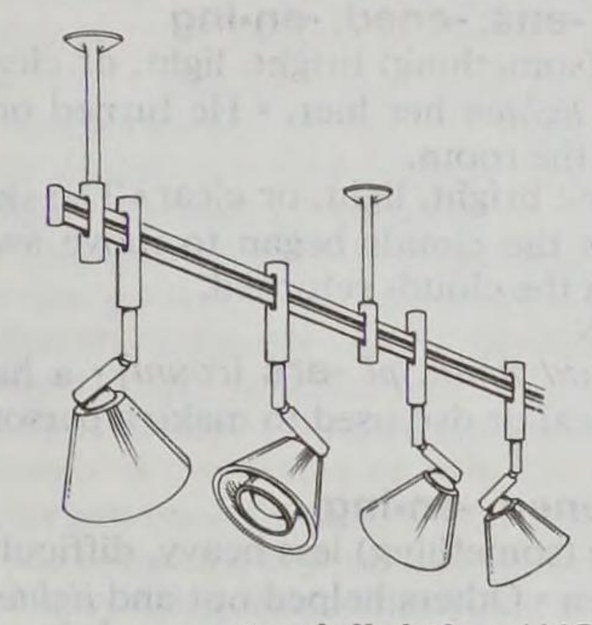
light pen *noun, pl* ~ **pens** [*count*] *computers* : a device shaped like a pen that senses light signals and is used to work with information on a computer screen • writing/drawing with a *light pen*

light pollution *noun* [*noncount*] : light from cities, vehicles, etc., that makes it difficult to see things in the sky (such as stars) at night

light show *noun, pl* ~ **shows** [*count*] : a display of moving colored lights

lights–out /ˈlaɪtsˈaʊt/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a time when people

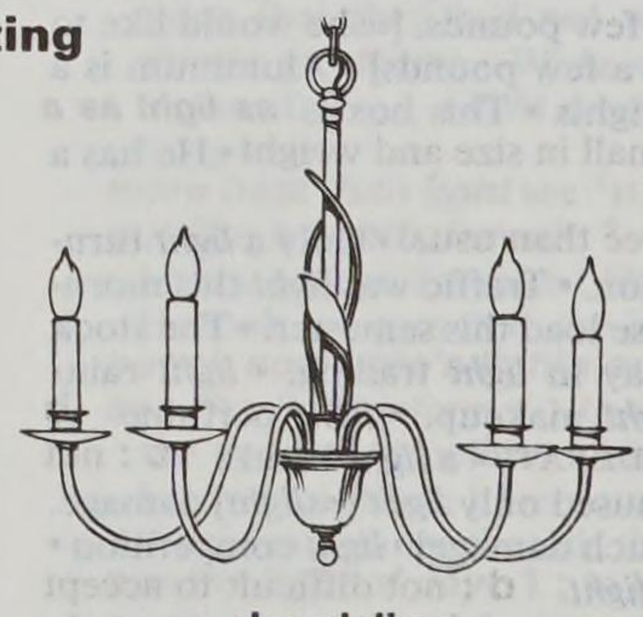
lighting



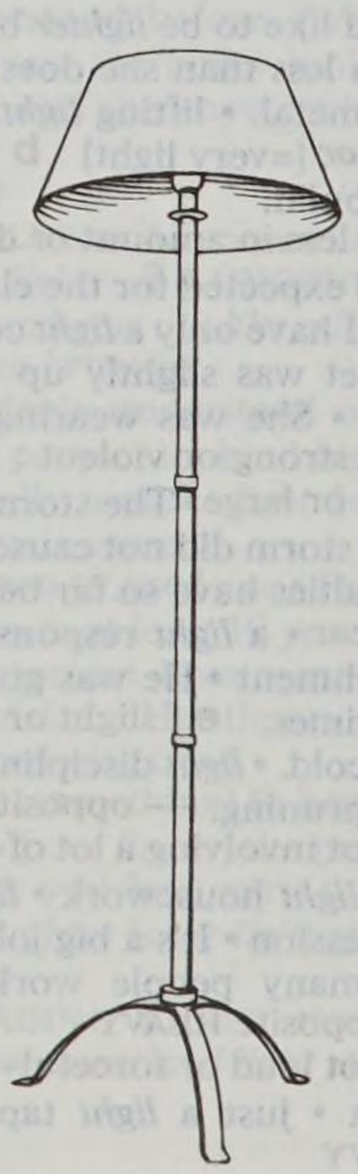
track lighting (*US*)



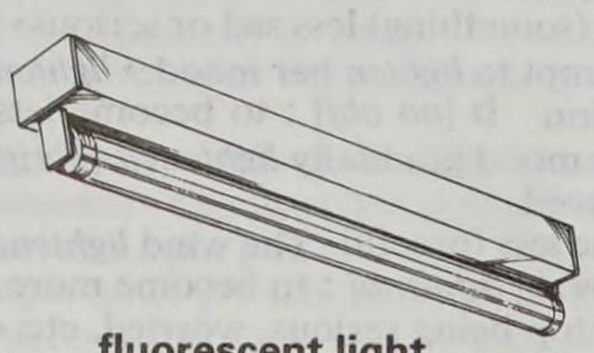
sconce



chandelier



floor lamp,
standard lamp (*Brit*)



fluorescent light



desk lamp

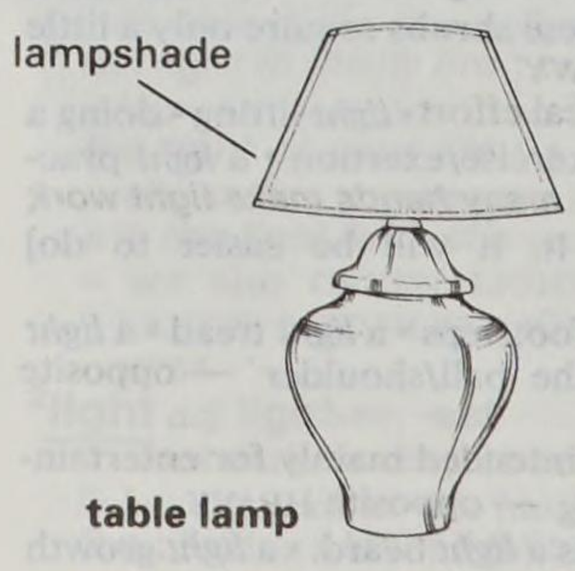


table lamp

(such as soldiers, prisoners, or students) are required to turn out the lights and go to bed ▪ *Lights-out* is at 10 p.m. ▪ They have to be back before *lights-out*.

light•weight /ˈlaɪtˌweɪt/ *noun, pl* **-weights** [*count*]
1 : a fighter who is in a class of boxers weighing from 125 to 132 pounds (57 to 60 kilograms) — often used before another noun ▪ a *lightweight* boxer ▪ He won the *lightweight* title.
2 : someone or something that does not weigh as much as others — usually used before another noun ▪ *lightweight* paper ▪ *lightweight* cotton/wool/silk ▪ a *lightweight* jacket
3 : someone or something that has little importance or power ▪ The members of his staff were considered *lightweights*. ▪ an intellectual *lightweight* — often used before another noun ▪ He was dismissed as a *lightweight* artist. ▪ They asked her several *lightweight* questions.

light–year /ˈlaɪtˌjiɚ/ *noun, pl* **-years**
1 [*count*] *technical* : a unit of distance equal to the distance that light travels in one year (about 5.88 trillion miles or 9.46 trillion kilometers) ▪ a star about 10 *light-years* away
2 ***light-years*** [*plural*] **a** — used to say that someone or something is much better or more advanced than others ▪ This new technology puts the company *light-years* ahead [=very far ahead] of its competitors. **b** — used to refer to a time that is or seems very far away ▪ A cure for that disease is still probably *light-years* away.

lik•able *or* **like•able** /ˈlaɪkəbəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : easy to like : having pleasant or appealing qualities ▪ Detective Grant is the most *likeable* character in the novel. ▪ She seems like a friendly, *likable* young woman.
– **lik•abil•i•ty** *or* **like•abil•i•ty** /ˌlaɪkəˈbɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*]

[1]like /ˈlaɪk/ *verb* **likes**; **liked**; **lik•ing**
1 [+ *obj*] **a** : to enjoy (something) : to get pleasure from (something) ▪ My son *likes* baseball. ▪ He *likes* baseball, but he loves football. ▪ Do you *like* Mexican food? ▪ I *liked* the movie a lot more than I thought I would. ▪ She *likes* (it) that I play the guitar. = She *likes* the fact that I play the guitar. ▪ She *likes* it when I play the guitar. [=she enjoys hearing me play the guitar] ▪ I *like* it very much. = I really *like* it. = (*chiefly Brit*) I quite *like* it. — often + *-ing verb* ▪ I *like playing* the guitar. ▪ He doesn't *like admitting* that he was wrong. — often followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ I *like to play* the guitar. ▪ He doesn't *like to admit* that he was wrong. **b** : to regard (something) in a favorable way ▪ I don't *like* the idea of leaving my mother alone all week. [=I don't think that it would be a good idea to leave my mother alone all week] ▪ I wouldn't *like* it if you got the wrong idea. = I wouldn't *like* you to get the wrong idea. = (*US*) I wouldn't *like* for you to get the wrong idea. [=I don't want you to get the wrong idea]
2 [+ *obj*] : to feel affection for (someone) : to enjoy being with (someone) ▪ I don't know what it is about that guy, but I just don't *like* him. ▪ I think she *likes* you. [=I think she is attracted to you] ▪ They were political allies who truly/genuinely *liked* each other. ▪ What is it that you *like* or dislike about him most? ▪ a much-*liked*/well-*liked* colleague ▪ She says she *likes* him as a friend but she's not attracted to him. ▪ My boss was a tough guy, but I *liked* him for his honesty.
3 [+ *obj*] — used to ask about someone's feelings or opinion about something ▪ So ***how do you like*** sailing now that you've tried it? [=do you like or dislike sailing?] ▪ "*How do you like* this weather?" "I don't *like* it at all!" ▪ "*How do you like* Mexican food?" "I love it!"
4 [+ *obj*] **a** : to want to have (something) — used with *would* to make a polite suggestion, offer, or request ▪ Would you *like* another cup of coffee? ▪ "Would anyone *like* a drink?" "Yes, I'd *like* one, please." ▪ I'd *like* (a chance) to reply to the last speaker. **b** : to want or prefer *to do* something ▪ Would you *like to go* sailing? [=do you want to go sailing?] ▪ Despite everything, I (would) still *like to think* that people are basically good. **c** — used in various spoken phrases that typically express anger or surprise ▪ She left without saying a word to me. ***How would you like it*** if someone ignored you that way? = *How would you like* being ignored that way? = *How would you like* to be ignored that way? [=don't you agree that it was wrong of her to ignore me that way?] ▪ "So she just left without saying a word. ***How do you like that?***" "Incredible!" ▪ (*Brit*) "You never listen!" "*I* never listen? ***I like that!***" [=that's not at all true/fair] ▪ "You're an idiot!" "***How would you like*** a punch in the nose?!" [=I'm going to punch you in the nose if you keep talking to me that way] ▪ "He thinks he can beat you." "***I'd (just) like to see him try!***" [=he can't beat me; he would lose if he tried to beat me]
5 [+ *obj*] : to choose or prefer to have (something) in a specified way or condition ▪ "How do you *like* your steaks cooked?" "I *like* my steaks medium rare."
6 [*no obj*] : to make a choice about what to do, have, etc. ▪ You can leave any time you *like*. ▪ "What should we do now?" "Whatever you *like*!" [=whatever you want to do] ▪ We can stay as long as you *like*. [=as long as you want to stay] ▪ There are plenty of cookies, so take as many as you *like*.
7 [+ *obj*] : to do well in (certain conditions) ▪ This plant *likes* dry soil. ▪ My car does not *like* cold weather.
if you like **1 a** — used to say that you can do something if you want to do it ▪ Have another drink, *if you like*. **b** — used to agree politely to a suggestion or request ▪ "Could we stay a little longer?" "Yes, *if you like*." [=if that's what you want to do] **2** *chiefly Brit* — used to suggest a possible way of describing or thinking about something ▪ The experience was, *if you like* [=*if you will*], a glimpse of the future.

[2]like *noun, pl* **likes** [*count*] : something that you like, approve of, or enjoy — usually plural ▪ my *likes* and dislikes — compare [5]LIKE

[3]like *prep*
1 : similar to (something or someone) ▪ The house looks *like* a barn. ▪ Real life isn't at all *like* life in the movies. = Real life isn't at all *like* the movies. ▪ It's *like* when we were kids. ▪ She's not very (much) *like* her sister. ▪ She's not at all *like* her sister. ▪ The baby is/looks more *like* his mother than his father. ▪ "Who is he *like*?" "He's not *like* anyone I've ever met before." ▪ I know I used to be selfish, but I'm ***not like that*** any more. [=I'm not selfish any more] — used with *what* in phrases that ask about or refer to the qualities of a person or thing ▪ "*What's* her new boyfriend *like*?" [=how would you describe her new boyfriend?] "He's very nice." ▪ I don't know *what* the food is *like* in that restaurant. [=I don't know if the food is good or bad in that restaurant] ▪ I thought he was nice, but then I found out *what* he's really *like*. [=I found out what kind of person he really is] ▪ She knows *what* it's *like* to be lonely. = She knows *what* it feels *like* to be lonely.
2 : typical of (someone) ▪ It's just *like* him to be late. [=he is often late] ▪ It's not *like* her to be so selfish. [=she is not usually so selfish]
3 : comparable to or close to (something) ▪ It costs ***something like*** five dollars. [=it costs about five dollars] ▪ (*chiefly Brit*) That's ***nothing like*** [=*nowhere near, not nearly*] enough food! ▪ I thought it would only take two or three minutes, but it ended up taking ***more like*** half an hour. [=it took about half an hour] ▪ There's ***nothing like*** [=nothing better than] a mug of hot chocolate on a cold winter's night.
4 : in a way that is similar to (someone or something) ▪ Quit acting *like* a fool. ▪ She was screaming *like* a maniac. ▪ We'll blow it up *like* a balloon. ▪ He was laughing *like* a hyena.
5 — used to introduce an example or series of examples ▪ They studied subjects *like* [=*such as*] physics (and chemistry).
it looks like rain — used to say that you think it is going to rain soon ▪ I was going to play golf, but *it looks like rain*.
just like that see [2]JUST
like father, like son see [1]FATHER
like new see [1]NEW
like so : in the manner shown — used in speech when you are showing someone how to do something ▪ The corner of the cloth should be folded down, *like so*.
like that **1** : of that kind ▪ I love books *like that*. **2** : in that manner ▪ Why does she talk *like that*?
like this **1** : of this kind ▪ I love weather *like this*. **2** : in this manner ▪ I hate it when it rains *like this*.
more like it *informal* — used to say that something is better or more pleasing ▪ "I've done twice as much today as yesterday!" "Well, ***that's more like it*** Congratulations!" ▪ It was a long and tiring day, but as the waiter brought me my dinner, I thought to myself, "Well, ***this is more like it***"

[4]like *adj* : having the same or similar qualities ▪ All three sisters have *like* [=(more commonly) *similar*] dispositions.

[5]like *noun, pl* **likes** [*count*] : a person or thing that is similar to another person or thing ▪ We may never see his *like* again. [=we may never see another person who is like him again] ▪ It was a beautiful sunset. I've never seen the *like* before.; *also* : a group of similar people or things ▪ He and his *like* [=*type*] tend to scare people away from the cause. ▪ comparing *like* with *like* [=comparing similar people or things]
and the like : and others of a similar kind : and so forth ▪ They told stories about ghosts and vampires *and the like*.
the likes of *also* ***the like of*** **1** : such people as ▪ She has read the complete works of many great writers, including *the likes of* Jane Austen and Robert Browning. **2** *disapproving* : such a person as ▪ We have no use for *the likes of*

you. **3** : the kind or sort of ▪ It was a beautiful sunset, *the likes of* which I've never seen before. [=I've never seen such a beautiful sunset before]
– compare ²LIKE

⁶like *adv*

as like as not* or *like as not : PROBABLY ▪ *Like as not* the crime will never be solved.

> ***usage*** *Like* has many uses in informal speech, especially in the speech of young people. It is commonly used to emphasize a word or phrase. ▪ He was, *like*, gorgeous. ▪ (*chiefly Brit*) He was gorgeous, *like*. It is used in a way that shows you are not sure or confident about what you are saying. ▪ I need to, *like*, borrow money. ▪ Her father is, *like*, a scientist or something. ▪ I think it costs, *like*, 20 dollars. In very informal speech in U.S. English, it is used with the verb *be* to say what someone thinks, says, etc. ▪ She was telling me what to do and I was *like* [=I was thinking], "Mind your own business." ▪ She was *like*, "Are you sure you want to do this?" and I was *like* "Yeah, why not?" [=she said, "Are you sure you want to do this?" and I said, "Yeah, why not?"] ▪ He's always criticizing everyone but it's *like*, "Who cares what he thinks?" [=he's always criticizing everyone but no one cares what he thinks]

⁷like *conj, informal*

1 a : the way it would be if ▪ The plane looked *like* [=*as if*] it would crash. ▪ It seemed *like* [=*as if*] he'd never been away.
b : the way someone would do if ▪ She acts *like* [=*as if*] she's better than us.
2 : the same as : AS ▪ You sound just *like* [=*the way*] he does. ▪ Does it look *like* [=*the way, as*] it did when you began? ▪ Does it look now *like* (it did) before? [=does it look now as it did before?] ▪ Real life is not *like* [=*as, the way*] it is in the movies. ▪ Real life isn't at all *like* [=*the way*] the movies are. ▪ ***Like I said*** [=*as I said*] before, you've got to try harder.
3 : in the way or manner that ▪ I did it *like* [=*the way, just as*] you told me.
4 : such as ▪ a bag *like* a doctor carries [=a bag like the kind of bag that a doctor carries] ▪ The book tells you what to do when your car has trouble—*like* when it won't start. [=as, for example, when it won't start]

> ***usage*** The use of *like* as a conjunction is regarded by some people as an error. It occurs mainly in speech and informal writing.

-like /ˌlaɪk/ *adj combining form*

1 : similar to or resembling ▪ a large, ape*like* man
2 : like that or those of ▪ lady*like* steps ▪ child*like* innocence ▪ a home*like* atmosphere

likeable *variant spelling of* LIKABLE

like•li•hood /ˈlaɪkliˌhʊd/ *noun* : the chance that something will happen [*noncount*] A poor diet increases the *likelihood* of (developing) serious health problems. [=a poor diet makes it more likely that you will develop serious health problems] ▪ There is no *likelihood* of that happening. [=there is no chance of that happening] ▪ There is every *likelihood* that he will be reelected. [=he will almost certainly be reelected] ▪ ***In all likelihood*** it will rain tomorrow. [=it is very likely that it will rain tomorrow] [*singular*] There is a strong *likelihood* that he will be reelected.

¹like•ly /ˈlaɪkli/ *adj* **like•li•er; -est** [*or more ~; most ~*]

1 — used to indicate the chance that something will happen ▪ The car is *likely* to break down soon. = It's *likely* that the car will break down soon. [=there is a good chance that the car will break down soon] ▪ It is/seems highly/very *likely* that it will rain tomorrow. ▪ She doesn't seem *likely* to get the job. ▪ She may get the job, but it isn't *likely*. ▪ "Will she get the job?" "***Not likely***." [=she probably will not get the job] ▪ It's ***more than likely*** [=very probable] that this problem will occur again.
2 : seeming to be true : BELIEVABLE ▪ That seems to be the most *likely* explanation. ✧ The phrase ***a likely story*** is often used in an informal way to say that you do not believe what someone has said. ▪ He says he bought all that chocolate for his daughter, not himself. *A likely story*!
3 *always used before a noun* : seeming to be right or suited for a purpose ▪ This looks like a *likely* spot for a picnic. ▪ They regard him as a *likely* candidate for the job.
– **like•li•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

²likely *adv* [*more ~; most ~*] : without much doubt : PROBABLY ▪ He'll very *likely* be late. ▪ It will ***most likely*** rain tomorrow. [=it will probably rain tomorrow] ▪ "Will it rain tomorrow?" "***Most likely***." ▪ She will ***more than likely*** not get the job. [=she will very probably not get the job]

> ***usage*** In U.S. English, the adverb *likely* is often used by itself without *most, quite, very*, etc. ▪ He will *likely* [=*probably*] be late. ▪ It will *likely* rain tomorrow. This use of *likely* has sometimes been criticized, but it is very common. It does not occur in highly formal writing.

like•ly–look•ing /ˈlaɪkliˈlʊkɪŋ/ *adj* **like•li•er–look•ing; like•li•est–look•ing** [*or more ~; most ~*] : seeming to be right or suited for a purpose : LIKELY ▪ This is a *likely-looking* spot for a picnic.

like–mind•ed /ˈlaɪkˈmaɪndəd/ *adj* : having similar opinions and interests ▪ He joined a local activists' group, hoping to meet *like-minded* people. [=people who shared his opinions]
– **like–mind•ed•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

lik•en /ˈlaɪkən/ *verb* **-ens; -ened; -en•ing**

liken to [*phrasal verb*] ***liken (someone or something) to (someone or something)*** : to describe (someone or something) as similar to (someone or something else) ▪ Some critics have *likened* [=*compared*] his writing *to* Faulkner's. ▪ She *likened* her trip *to* a pilgrimage.

like•ness /ˈlaɪknəs/ *noun, pl* **-ness•es**

1 [*count*] : a picture of a person : PORTRAIT ▪ a stamp bearing the *likeness* of a president ▪ The painting is ***a good likeness*** of her. [=the painting looks very much like her]
2 : the quality or state of being alike or similar especially in appearance [*noncount*] People always remarked on his *likeness* [=*resemblance*] to his late father. ▪ There's some *likeness* between them. [*count*] There's an uncanny *likeness* between them. ▪ In comparing the two documents, researchers have noted some surprising *likenesses*. [=*similarities*]

like•wise /ˈlaɪkˌwaɪz/ *adv*

1 : in the same way ▪ All of your classmates have begun their projects, and you should do *likewise*. [=you should also begin your project]
2 : in addition : ALSO ▪ an acclaimed painter who is *likewise* a sculptor — often used to introduce a statement that adds to and is related to a previous statement ▪ They said that homelessness was increasing. *Likewise*, unemployment was up.
3 — used in informal speech to say that you share the feelings that someone else has just expressed ▪ "I'm pleased to meet you." "*Likewise*." [=I'm also pleased to meet you]

lik•ing /ˈlaɪkɪŋ/ *noun* [*singular*] : the feeling of liking or enjoying something or someone ▪ The colors are too bright ***for my liking***. [=I like colors that are less bright] — usually + *for* ▪ He has a (strong) *liking for* spicy foods. [=he likes spicy foods] ▪ She has a *liking for* loud music. ▪ She never showed any *liking for* him.

take a liking to : to begin to like (someone or something) ▪ He *took a liking to* his new neighbor. ▪ She *took an immediate liking to* sailing when she tried it for the first time.

to someone's liking : appealing or enjoyable to someone ▪ She reads poetry, but fiction is much more *to her liking*.

li•lac /ˈlaɪˌlæk, *Brit* ˈlaɪlək/ *noun, pl* **-lacs**

1 [*count*] : a type of bush with purple or white flowers that bloom in the spring
2 [*noncount*] : a light purple color — see color picture on page C3

lilt /ˈlɪlt/ *noun* [*singular*] : the attractive quality of speech or music that rises and falls in a pleasing pattern ▪ There was a charming *lilt* to her voice. ▪ a tune with a *lilt*
– **lilt•ing** /ˈlɪltɪŋ/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ a *lilting* melody ▪ a *lilting* voice ▪ the *lilting* rhythms of her speech – **lilt•ing•ly** *adv*

lily /ˈlɪli/ *noun, pl* **lil•ies** [*count*] : a type of plant that has large white or colorful bell-shaped flowers; *also* : the flower — see color picture on page C6; see also WATER LILY

gild the lily see GILD

lily–liv•ered /ˈlɪliˈlɪvəd/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *informal + old-fashioned* : lacking courage : COWARDLY ▪ He considers his political enemies a bunch of *lily-livered* hypocrites.

lily of the valley *noun, pl* **lilies of the valley** [*count*] : a small plant that produces small white flowers shaped like little bells

lily pad *noun, pl* **~ pads** [*count*] : a large, floating leaf of a plant (called a water lily) that grows in the water of a pond or pool

lily–white /ˈlɪliˈwaɪt/ *adj*

1 : very white ▪ a *lily-white* wedding dress ▪ *lily-white* skin
2 [*more ~; most ~*] : completely without fault or blame

: morally pure ▪ She's not as *lily-white* as you might think.
3 *chiefly US, disapproving* : consisting entirely or mostly of white people ▪ He grew up in a *lily-white* suburb in the Midwest. ▪ a TV show with a *lily-white* cast

li•ma bean /ˈlaɪmə-, *Brit* ˈliːmə-/ *noun, pl* ~ **beans** [*count*] : a type of flat and pale green or white bean

limb /ˈlɪm/ *noun, pl* **limbs** [*count*]
1 : a leg or arm ▪ Many soldiers died in the battle, and many lost *limbs*. ▪ an artificial *limb* ▪ a dog with an injured *limb*
2 : a large branch of a tree ▪ They tied a rope to one of the *limbs* of the maple tree. — see color picture on page C6
out on a limb : in or into a risky or dangerous position or situation ▪ She went *out on a limb* to help you. [=she took a chance; she did something that meant she could be criticized or harmed in some way] ▪ If you try to oppose the boss yourself, you're likely to get caught *out on a limb*.
risk life and limb see ¹LIFE
tear (someone) limb from limb : to attack or kill (someone) in a very violent way ▪ The angry mob would have *torn him limb from limb* if the police hadn't protected him.
– **limbed** /ˈlɪmd/ *adj* — used in combination ▪ a strong-*limbed* young man [=a young man with strong arms and legs]

¹lim•ber /ˈlɪmbɚ/ *adj* : bending easily : FLEXIBLE — used of people or their bodies ▪ a *limber* gymnast ▪ Yoga requires a *limber* body.

²limber *verb* **-bers**; **-bered**; **-ber•ing**
limber up [*phrasal verb*] : to prepare for physical activity by doing exercises so that your body can move and bend more easily ▪ She *limbered up* for a few minutes before starting to run. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ She *limbered up* for the election by learning the relevant statistics.

¹lim•bo *or* **Lim•bo** /ˈlɪmboʊ/ *noun* [*singular*] *in the Roman Catholic religion* : a place where the souls of people who have not been baptized go after death
in limbo **1** : in a forgotten or ignored place, state, or situation ▪ orphaned children left *in limbo* in foster homes and institutions **2** : in an uncertain or undecided state or condition ▪ After graduating from college, he was *in limbo* for a while, trying to decide what to do next.
– compare ²LIMBO

²limbo *noun* [*noncount*] : a dance or contest in which you have to bend backward and go under a bar which is lowered further after each time you go under it ▪ do/dance *the limbo* ▪ a *limbo* dancer — compare ¹LIMBO

¹lime /ˈlaɪm/ *noun, pl* **limes**
1 : a small green fruit that is related to the lemon and orange and has a sour taste [*count*] The recipe calls for the juice of two *limes*. [*noncount*] a slice of *lime* — often used before another noun ▪ *lime* juice ▪ *lime* trees — see color picture on page C5
2 [*noncount*] : LIME GREEN
– compare ²LIME, ³LIME

²lime *noun* [*noncount*] : a white substance that is made by heating limestone or shells and that is used in various products (such as plaster and cement) and in farming ▪ He spread *lime* over the garden to make the soil less acidic. — compare ¹LIME, ³LIME
– **lime** /ˈlaɪm/ *verb* **limes**; **limed**; **lim•ing** [+ *obj*] ▪ *lime* a garden [=spread lime on a garden]

³lime *noun, pl* **limes** [*count*] *chiefly Brit* : a type of European tree : LINDEN — compare ¹LIME, ²LIME

lime green *noun* [*noncount*] : a bright, light yellowish-green color — see color picture on page C2
– **lime–green** *adj* ▪ wearing a *lime-green* shirt

lime•light /ˈlaɪmˌlaɪt/ *noun*
the limelight : public attention or notice thought of as a bright light that shines on someone ▪ She is a very private woman who never sought *the limelight*. [=who has never sought to be famous] ▪ She has shunned *the limelight*. ▪ When his new book caused an unexpected controversy, he was ***thrust into the limelight*** once again. [=he was given a lot of unwanted public attention] ▪ an actor who is used to being ***in the limelight*** ▪ He doesn't like having to ***share the limelight*** with other actors. ▪ He's always trying to ***grab/steal the limelight*** from other actors.

lim•er•ick /ˈlɪmərɪk/ *noun, pl* **-icks** [*count*] : a humorous rhyming poem of five lines

lime•stone /ˈlaɪmˌstoʊn/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a type of white stone that is commonly used in building

lim•ey /ˈlaɪmi/ *noun, pl* **-eys** [*count*] *US, informal + old-fashioned* : a British person ✧ *Limey* can be an insulting word but it is now usually used in a joking way.

¹lim•it /ˈlɪmət/ *noun, pl* **-its** [*count*]
1 : a point beyond which it is not possible to go ▪ He has reached the *limit* of his endurance. ▪ In training, she pushed her body to its physical *limits*. ▪ He tries to be creative within the *limits* of conventional journalism. ▪ Space travel tests the (outer) *limits* of human capabilities. ▪ It's important to exercise, but you need to ***know your limits***. [=you need to know how much you are able to do] ▪ I'm trying to be patient with him, but I've just about ***reached my limit***. [=reached the point where I can no longer be patient] ▪ ***There are limits*** to what I can put up with from him! ▪ ***There's no limit*** to what we can accomplish [=we can accomplish anything] if we work hard enough. ▪ There seems to be no *limit* to his enthusiasm. = His enthusiasm seems to ***know no limit(s)***.
2 : a point beyond which someone is not allowed to go ▪ Parents need to set *limits* for their children. = Parents need to set/place/impose *limits* on (the behavior of) their children. ▪ They must not go beyond these *limits*. = They must not exceed these *limits*.
3 : an amount or number that is the highest or lowest allowed ▪ Two drinks is my *limit*. [=I stop after having two drinks] ▪ When you take the test, you'll have a ***time limit***. [=you will have to complete the test within a certain amount of time] ▪ The lower ***age limit*** for voting is 18. [=you cannot vote unless you are at least 18 years old] — see also OFF-LIMITS, SPEED LIMIT
4 : an area or line that is at the outer edge of something — usually plural ▪ There are three high schools within the city *limits*. [=within the city] ▪ They ventured far beyond the *limits* of civilization. ▪ at the outer *limits* of the solar system
over the limit *Brit* : having more alcohol in the blood than is legally allowed for someone who is driving ▪ He was arrested for driving *over the limit*.
the limit *informal + old-fashioned* : a very annoying or upsetting person or thing ▪ He keeps forgetting his wife's birthday: he really is *the limit*! [=*too much*] ▪ He forgot his wife's birthday again. Isn't that *the limit*!
the sky's the limit — used to say that there are no limits and that anything is possible ▪ You can achieve anything if you really want to. *The sky's the limit*.
to the limit : to the greatest possible point : as much as possible ▪ Our resources have been stretched *to the limit*. [=we have used all of our resources] ▪ My schedule is filled *to the limit*. [=my schedule is completely filled]
within limits : without going beyond what is considered reasonable or allowable ▪ They told us that we could do whatever we liked, *within* (certain) *limits*.
without limit : without being controlled or stopped : without being limited ▪ allowing costs to increase *without limit*

²limit *verb* **-its**; **-it•ed**; **-it•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to stop or prevent an increase in (something) ▪ We need to find ways to *limit* expenses. : to keep (something) from becoming greater ▪ He tried to *limit* the damage to his reputation by blaming other people. ▪ A factor *limiting* our country's economic performance is its lack of resources. ▪ His political enemies have tried to *limit* [=*restrict*] his power.
2 : to prevent (something) from being larger, longer, more, etc. : to place a limit on the size or extent of (something) ▪ The hospital *limits* [=*restricts*] visits to 30 minutes. ▪ Our lack of money *limits* our options. — often used *(be) limited to* ▪ Visits *are limited to* 30 minutes. [=visits must not be longer than 30 minutes] ▪ The damage from the fire *was limited to* the rear of the building. [=only the rear of the building was damaged by the fire]
3 : to stop (someone) from having or doing more : to place a limit on (someone) ▪ Our lack of money *limits* [=*restricts*] us to fewer options. ▪ Because of our lack of money, we have to ***limit ourselves*** to fewer options. — often used as *(be) limited to* ▪ Guests *are limited to* visits of no longer than 30 minutes. ▪ We *are limited to* fewer options by our lack of money.

lim•i•ta•tion /ˌlɪməˈteɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**
1 [*noncount*] : the act of controlling the size or extent of something : the act of limiting something ▪ a law aimed at the *limitation* of federal power
2 [*count*] : something that controls how much of something is possible or allowed ▪ They have placed a *limitation* on the amount of time we have available. — often plural ▪ There are strict *limitations* on the uses of these funds. ▪ We'd like to include more material, but space *limitations* make that impossible.
3 [*count*] : something (such as a lack of ability or strength)

that controls what a person is able to do • He knows his *limitations*. • physical *limitations*

damage limitation see ¹DAMAGE

lim•it•ed /ˈlɪmətəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not high or great in number, amount, etc. • Only a *limited* number of students will be allowed in the class. • Our country has very *limited* resources. = Our country is very *limited* in its resources. • People with *limited* incomes are hit particularly hard by inflation. • The company has had *limited* success. • Her language skills are somewhat *limited*. [=are not very highly developed] • This offer is available for only a *limited* time. [=for only a short time]

limited edition *noun, pl* ~ **-tions** [*count*] : a special book, picture, medal, etc., for which only a small number of copies are produced and sold

lim•it•ing /ˈlɪmətɪŋ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : placing a limit on what is possible or allowed • A *limiting* factor on our country's economic performance is its lack of resources. • As a writer, I find the drama genre to be very *limiting*.

lim•it•less /ˈlɪmətləs/ *adj* : very great or large : having no limit • *limitless* possibilities • a seemingly *limitless* supply of material

limo /ˈlɪmoʊ/ *noun, pl* **lim•os** [*count*] *informal* : LIMOUSINE

lim•ou•sine /ˌlɪməˈziːn/ *noun, pl* **-sines** [*count*]
1 : a very large and comfortable car usually driven by a professional driver (called a chauffeur) • The bride and groom rode in a *limousine* from the church to the reception hall. — see picture at CAR
2 *chiefly US* : a vehicle (such as a bus or van) that carries passengers to and from an airport

¹limp /ˈlɪmp/ *verb* **limps**; **limped**; **limp•ing** [*no obj*]
1 : to walk in a slow and awkward way because of an injury to a leg or foot • The injured player *limped* off the court. • The dog was *limping* slightly.
2 : to go or continue slowly or with difficulty • The damaged ship *limped* back to port. • The company has somehow managed to *limp* along despite the bad economy.

²limp *noun, pl* **limps** [*count*] : a slow and awkward way of walking caused by an injury to a leg or foot • We noticed that the dog was walking with a slight *limp*. • a noticeable/pronounced *limp*

³limp *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : having an unpleasantly soft or weak quality : not firm or stiff • He gave me a very *limp* handshake. • This plant isn't doing well—look how *limp* the leaves are. • Her hair hung *limp* around her shoulders. • I suddenly ***went limp*** and collapsed on the floor.
2 : feeling very tired • He was *limp* with fatigue.
– **limp•ly** *adv* • He let his hand hang *limply* off the couch. • Her hair hung *limply* around her shoulders. – **limp•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

lim•pet /ˈlɪmpət/ *noun, pl* **-pets** [*count*] : a type of ocean animal that has a shell and that is able to attach itself to things (such as rocks) very tightly

lim•pid /ˈlɪmpəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *literary*
1 : perfectly clear : TRANSPARENT • the *limpid* waters of the stream • *limpid* eyes
2 : clear and simple in style • *limpid* prose

linch•pin *also* **lynch•pin** /ˈlɪnʧˌpɪn/ *noun, pl* **-pins** [*count*] : a person or thing that holds something together : the most important part of a complex situation or system • This witness is the *linchpin* of the defense's case.

lin•den /ˈlɪndən/ *noun, pl* **-dens** [*count*] : a type of tree that has large heart-shaped leaves and yellowish flowers — called also (*chiefly Brit*) *lime*

¹line /ˈlaɪn/ *noun, pl* **lines**
1 [*count*] **a** : a long narrow mark on a surface • I drew a straight *line* down the page to separate the two lists. • a curved *line* • Cut the paper along the dotted *line*. • a horizontal/vertical/diagonal *line* **b** : a mark on the ground that shows the edge of the playing area in a sport • a tennis serve that was over the *line* — see also FINISH LINE, FOUL LINE, GOAL LINE, STARTING LINE
2 [*count*] : an area or border that separates two places • property *lines* • After three hours on the road, they finally crossed the state *line*. • the town *line* — often used figuratively • They have overstepped the *line* of good taste. [=they have shown poor taste in their actions] • The community is divided along racial *lines*. [=people of different races do not like or agree with each other] • Their behavior has ***crossed the line***. [=their behavior goes beyond what is acceptable] • There's sometimes only a very ***fine line*** [=a very small difference] between genius and madness. — see also BORDERLINE, DIVIDING LINE, INTERNATIONAL DATE LINE, POVERTY LINE
3 [*count*] **a** : a group of people or things that are next to each other in a row • The soldiers formed a *line*. = The soldiers got into a *line*. • Their yards were separated by a *line* of trees. **b** *US* : a group of people, vehicles, etc., that are in front of and behind each other in a row while they wait to move forward • The *line* [=(*chiefly Brit*) *queue*] of fans moved slowly toward the box office. • Everybody had to ***get in line*** and wait their turn. • The people were ***waiting/standing in line***. ✧ In most areas of the U.S., it is usual to say that people are (waiting/standing) ***in line*** for something. • We waited *in line* for more than an hour to get tickets. In some areas, especially in and near New York City, ***on line*** is used instead. • We waited *on line* for more than an hour.
4 [*count*] : the outline of a figure, body, or surface — often plural • the car's sleek *lines* • the *lines* of a coat • a dress with figure-hugging *lines*
5 [*count*] : a long and thin rope, string, etc. • a fishing *line* • We hung the wet clothes on the *line*. [=*clothesline*]
6 [*count*] **a** : a pipe for carrying something (such as steam, water, or oil) • There was a break in the water *line*. — see also PIPELINE **b** : a wire or set of wires that carries electricity or a telephone signal • During the storm, several power *lines* were knocked down. • a telephone *line*
7 [*count*] : a telephone connection • I'm sorry, the *line* is busy/engaged. • The *line* suddenly went dead. • All of our *lines* are currently busy. Please hold. • There's a call for you on *line* 2. • Please ***hold the line***. [=please do not hang up the phone] • Mr. Smith is ***on the line***. [=Mr. Smith has called and is waiting to speak with you on the telephone] • The supervisor got *on the line* [=got on the phone] and explained the problem. • I wasn't able to get him *on the line*.
8 a [*count*] : a row of words, letters, numbers, or symbols written across a page • To save space, we'll cut out the last few *lines* of the article. • a *line* of poetry • making adjustments to *line* spacing [=to the amount of space between lines]; *also* : a space on a page where such a line could be placed • a blank *line* **b** ***lines*** [*plural*] : the words that an actor speaks in a play, movie, etc. • All of the actors should have their *lines* memorized by next Friday. • She fluffed some of her *lines* but delivered others well. **c** [*count*] : a short note or message • ***Drop me a line*** [=send me a brief message] while you're away. **d** [*count*] : a spoken or written comment • He always comes up with a funny/clever *line* to help people relax when the situation is tense. • He didn't really answer my question—he just handed/gave me some *line* about how hard it can be to deal with these issues. • a salesman with a smooth *line* [=a smooth way of talking] • (*US*) a guy with a clever ***pickup line*** = (*Brit*) a guy with a clever ***chat-up line*** [=a comment made by a man to start a conversation with a woman he is attracted to]
9 [*count*] : a wrinkle on a person's skin • the deep *lines* on his face • I noticed the fine *lines* around her eyes when she smiled. • a ***worry line*** [=a wrinkle on a person's face caused by worrying]
10 [*count*] : the path along which something moves or is directed • a bullet's *line* of flight • Some civilians got caught in the ***line of fire***. [=they were in the place where bullets were being shot] • She was standing right in my ***line of sight/vision***. [=she was standing right where I was looking]
11 [*count*] : a railroad track • The train was stopped because a tree had fallen across the *line*.
12 [*count*] : PRODUCTION LINE • They had to shut down the *line* when one of the machines broke down.
13 a [*singular*] : a series of similar things • This is just the latest in a long *line* of problems. **b** [*count*] : the people in a family : the series of people who are born in a family as years pass • She comes from a long *line* of farmers. [=there have been many farmers in her family in the past] • He claims that he is descended from a royal *line*.
14 [*count*] **a** : a way of behaving, thinking, etc. • He ***took a firm line*** with his son. [=he treated his son in a firm way] • I don't follow your ***line of reasoning***. [=I don't understand the reasoning behind what you are saying] • The police are pursuing a new ***line of inquiry/investigation***. • Our current method isn't working. We need to try a different ***line of attack***. — see also HARD LINE **b** : an official or public position or opinion • He is a politician who has always adhered closely to the ***party line*** on just about everything. [=who has always supported the position taken by his political party]
15 [*count*] : an area of activity or interest • She got a job in the retail *line*. • That kind of thing isn't really in my *line*.

[=that kind of thing doesn't really interest me] ▪ He's in a dangerous ***line of work***. [=he has a dangerous job] ▪ I don't know what ***line of business*** she's in. ▪ a soldier/policeman/fireman who was killed ***in the line of duty*** [=was killed while doing his job]

16 [*count*] : the position of military forces who are facing the enemy ▪ The enemy soldiers broke through the *line*. ▪ a secret mission ***behind enemy lines*** [=a secret mission in an area controlled by the enemy] — see also FRONT LINE

17 [*count*] : a group of related products that are sold by one company ▪ a *line* of clothing = a clothing *line* ▪ The company is coming out with a new product *line*.

18 [*count*] **a** : a system used for moving people or things from one place to another ▪ a bus *line* ▪ a steamship *line* ▪ military ***supply lines***; *also* : a company that owns or controls such a system ▪ He owns a trucking *line*. — see also AIRLINE **b** : a system that allows people to share information ▪ We need to keep the ***lines of communication*** open.

19 ***lines*** [*plural*] — used in phrases like ***along the lines of*** to refer to something that is similar or close to the thing being mentioned ▪ We need something *along the lines of* a small cart. = We need a small cart or something *along those/similar lines*. [=we need a small cart or something like that] ▪ He said he was too busy to help, or something *along those lines*.

20 [*count*] *American football* **a** : LINE OF SCRIMMAGE **b** : the players who are positioned on the line of scrimmage ▪ the defensive/offensive *line*

21 [*count*] : an amount of an illegal drug (such as cocaine) that is arranged in a thin line so that it can be breathed into the nose through a straw ▪ a *line* of cocaine

along the line *informal* : during a process or series of events ▪ He seems to have lost his interest in music somewhere *along the line*. [=at some time in the past]

cross the line see ²CROSS

down the line *informal* : in the future ▪ If you don't finish school, you'll regret it *down the line*. ▪ We'll have to correct these problems further *down the line*.

draw a/the line **1** : to see or understand the difference *between* things ▪ Where do you *draw the line between* what is good and bad art? ▪ It is sometimes hard to *draw a line between* right and wrong. **2** : to refuse to do or allow something : to set a limit — usually + *at* ▪ We couldn't invite everyone so we *drew the line at* immediate family members only. ▪ He helps me out a lot but *draws the line at* cleaning the bathroom.

fall in/into line see ¹FALL

get/have a line on *US, informal* : to get or have information about (someone or something that you are trying to find) ▪ Have the police managed to *get a line on* any of the suspects? ▪ She says she *has a line on* a new car.

hold the line : to not allow any more changes or increases — usually + *against* or *on* ▪ We need to *hold the line against* further expansion into our territory. ▪ The President has vowed to *hold the line on* tax increases. [=to not allow further tax increases] — see also ¹LINE 7 (above)

hook, line, and sinker see ¹HOOK

in line **1** — used to say that someone should get something or is likely to get something ▪ He's *in line* for a promotion. = He's *in line* to get a promotion. [=he is going to be given a promotion] **2** — used to refer to a person or thing that follows or could follow another person or thing ▪ The Vice President is ***first in line*** to succeed the President. **3** : doing what other people want or expect : in a state of agreement or cooperation ▪ He says he'll cooperate, but I don't know how much longer we can keep him *in line*. — see also ¹LINE 3b (above)

in line with : in agreement with ▪ The new policy is *in line with* the plans that were discussed last year. ▪ My thinking is *in line with* yours. [=my thinking agrees with yours] ▪ The red one is more *in line with* what I had in mind. [=is more like what I had in mind]

into line : into a state of agreement or cooperation ▪ It was difficult to get/bring everyone *into line*. [=to get everyone to agree]

lay it on the line *informal* : to speak very honestly and directly to someone ▪ Let me *lay it on the line* (to/for you): if your work doesn't improve, you'll be fired.

on line : in or into operation ▪ The new system will be coming *on line* next month. = The new system will be brought *on line* next month. [=the new system will begin working next month] — see also ¹LINE 3b (above), ONLINE

on the line : in danger of being lost or harmed : at risk ▪ I have to finish this report by tomorrow. My job is *on the line*. [=I will lose my job if I don't finish this report by tomorrow] ▪ The champ's title is *on the line* in this fight. [=he will lose the title if he loses the fight] ▪ He put/laid his life *on the line* [=he risked his life] for his family.

out of line *informal* : beyond what is reasonable or allowable : not right or appropriate ▪ Your behavior is *out of line*. ▪ These prices are way *out of line* with what other stores are charging. ▪ I can't believe that guy was so rude to you! He was really/way *out of line*. — see also *step out of line* at ²STEP

read between the lines see ¹READ

take/follow the line of least resistance see RESISTANCE

the end of the line see ¹END

toe the line see ²TOE

– see also BOTTOM LINE, STORY LINE

²line *verb* lines; lined; lin•ing

1 [+ *obj*] : to place or form a line along (something, such as a hallway, building, or street) ▪ Students *lined* the hall, waiting to register for classes. ▪ Shops *line* the street. = The street is *lined* with shops. [=there is a line of shops along the street] ▪ a street *lined* with trees = a tree-*lined* street — see also LINED

2 *baseball* : to hit a line drive [*no obj*] He *lined* to center field. ▪ He *lined* out to the shortstop. [=he hit a line drive that was caught by the shortstop for an out] [+ *obj*] She *lined* a single to left field. [=she hit a line drive into left field for a single]

line up [*phrasal verb*] **1** : to form a line ▪ The soldiers *lined up* for inspection. ▪ (*US*) People *lined up* [=(*chiefly Brit*) *queued up*] at the theater waiting to buy tickets. **2** ***line (people or things) up*** *or* ***line up (people or things)*** : to put (people or things) into a line ▪ The teacher *lined up* the children. ▪ The soldiers were *lined up* for inspection. ▪ The storekeeper carefully *lined up* the cans on the shelf. ▪ (*US*) People were *lined up* [=(*chiefly Brit*) *queued up*] at the theater waiting to buy tickets. **3** ***line (things) up*** *or* ***line up (things)*** : to place (things) so that their edges form a straight line : ALIGN ▪ *line up* (the edges of) two pieces of paper **4** ***line (something) up*** *or* ***line up (something)*** : to succeed in getting (something) ▪ He has been trying to *line up* support for his proposal. ▪ She managed to *line up* a summer job.

– compare ³LINE

³line *verb* lines; lined; lin•ing

[+ *obj*] : to cover the inner surface of (something) ▪ I *lined* the box with paper. ▪ Tapestries *lined* the walls. ▪ Her gloves were *lined* with fur. ▪ Books *lined* the walls of the study. = The study was *lined* with books. — see also LINED, LINING

line your pockets *informal* : to take or get a lot of money by doing something illegal or dishonest ▪ corrupt officials who have been *lining their pockets* at the public's expense [=have been stealing public money]

– compare ²LINE

lin•e•age /ˈlɪnijɪʤ/ *noun, pl* **-ag•es** [*count, noncount*] : the people who were in someone's family in past times ▪ a person of unknown *lineage* [=*ancestry, descent*]

lin•e•al /ˈlɪnijəl/ *adj* : having a direct family relationship : related by a direct series of parents and children ▪ He claims that he is a *lineal* descendent of a famous military hero. ▪ a *lineal* ancestor

– **lin•eal•ly** *adv*

lin•e•a•ments /ˈlɪnijəmənts/ *noun* [*plural*] *formal + literary* : the features of a person's body or face — sometimes used figuratively ▪ the *lineaments* [=*features*] of his personality ▪ describing the *lineaments* of the problem

lin•e•ar /ˈlɪnijɚ/ *adj*

1 [*more ~; most ~*] **a** : formed by lines : made up of lines ▪ a *linear* design **b** : forming a line : STRAIGHT ▪ a flat, almost *linear* horizon

2 : of or relating to the length of something ▪ *linear* measurements

3 [*more ~; most ~*] : going from one thing to the next thing in a direct and logical way ▪ a *linear* narrative ▪ *linear* patterns of thought

– **lin•e•ar•i•ty** /ˌlɪniˈerəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *linearity* of the narrative – **lin•e•ar•ly** *adv* ▪ thinking *linearly*

line•back•er /ˈlaɪnˌbækɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *American football* : a player on the defending team whose usual position is a short distance in back of the line of scrimmage

lined /ˈlaɪnd/ *adj*

1 : marked with lines ▪ a sheet of *lined* paper

2 : having many wrinkles ▪ a deeply *lined* face ▪ *lined* skin

3 *of clothing* : having a thin layer of different material on the

inner surface : having a lining ▪ a *lined* jacket ▪ a *lined* skirt

line dance *noun, pl* ~ **dances** [*count*] : a dance done by a group of people who stand next to each other in a line and who all perform the same movements
– **line dancer** *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] – **line dancing** *noun* [*noncount*]

line drawing *noun, pl* ~ **-ings** [*count*] : a drawing made only with lines

line drive *noun, pl* ~ **drives** [*count*] *baseball* : a ball that is hit by the batter and goes in a nearly straight line not far above the ground ▪ He hit a hard/soft *line drive* to the shortstop.

line–item veto *noun* [*singular*] *US* : a power that allows a president, governor, etc., to officially reject specific parts of a proposed bill without rejecting the entire bill

line•man /ˈlaɪnmən/ *noun, pl* **-men** /-mən/ [*count*]
1 *American football* : a player whose position is on the line of scrimmage ▪ a defensive *lineman* ▪ an offensive *lineman*
2 *US* : a person whose job is to set up and repair power lines or telephone lines

lin•en /ˈlɪnən/ *noun, pl* **-ens**
1 [*noncount*] : a smooth, strong cloth made from flax ▪ a *linen* tablecloth
2 : tablecloths, sheets, etc., made of linen or a similar cloth [*noncount*] She washes the *linen* every week. ▪ (*US*) a *linen* closet = (*Brit*) a *linen* cupboard [*plural*] *linens*, blankets, and towels — see also BED LINENS, TABLE LINEN

line of credit *noun, pl* **lines of credit** [*count*] : an amount of money that a person is allowed to borrow ▪ a *line of credit* of up to $100,000 — called also *credit line*

line of scrimmage *noun* [*singular*] *American football* : an imaginary line that goes across the field at the place where the football is put before each play begins

[1]lin•er /ˈlaɪnɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]
1 : a large ship used for carrying passengers ▪ an ocean *liner* ▪ I took a cruise on a luxury *liner*. ▪ a cruise/passenger *liner*
2 *baseball* : LINE DRIVE ▪ He hit a *liner* to the first baseman.
– compare [2]LINER; see also AIRLINER, EYELINER

[2]liner *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : something that covers the inner surface of another thing ▪ the *liner* of a jacket ▪ We had to replace the swimming pool *liner*. ▪ The thermos has an aluminum *liner*. — compare [1]LINER

liner notes *noun* [*plural*] *chiefly US* : information about a record, CD, or tape that is printed on its cover or on a piece of paper placed inside its cover — called also (*Brit*) *sleeve notes*

lines•man /ˈlaɪnzmən/ *noun, pl* **-men** [*count*] : an official in a sport such as football, tennis, or hockey who decides if a ball, puck, or player has gone out of the proper playing area

line•up /ˈlaɪnˌʌp/ *noun, pl* **-ups** [*count*]
1 a : a list of the players who are playing in a game (such as baseball) ▪ The manager has made some changes to the *starting lineup*. [=the list of players who are playing when the game begins] **b** : the players on such a list ▪ The team has a powerful *lineup*.
2 a : a group of people who are going to perform at an event ▪ the show's star-studded *lineup* (of performers) **b** : a group of television programs that are shown one after another ▪ tonight's *lineup* of shows ▪ The networks all had different *lineups* for the new season.
3 *US* : a line of people who stand next to each other while someone tries to identify one of them as the person who has committed a crime ▪ She was asked to pick her attacker out of a *lineup*. — called also (*Brit*) *identification parade*, (*Brit*) *identity parade*

-ling /lɪŋ/ *noun suffix*
1 : one connected with or having the quality of ▪ nest*ling* ▪ earth*ling* ▪ weak*ling*
2 : young, small, or minor one ▪ duck*ling*

lin•ger /ˈlɪŋgɚ/ *verb* **-gers**; **-gered**; **-ger•ing** [*no obj*]
1 : to stay somewhere beyond the usual or expected time ▪ The tourists didn't *linger* very long. ▪ She *lingered* at the art exhibit. ▪ He *lingered* in bed and missed breakfast. ▪ They *lingered* over coffee after dinner.
2 a : to continue to exist as time passes ▪ The heat *lingered* long after the sun had gone down. ▪ The smell of her perfume *lingered*. ▪ The idea *lingered* in their minds. — often + *on* ▪ His unhappiness/resentment *lingered on*. ▪ The rain *lingered on* for days. **b** : to remain alive while becoming weaker — usually + *on* ▪ He was very ill, but he *lingered on* for several more months.
– **lin•ger•er** /ˈlɪŋgɚɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ After sunset there were a few *lingerers* on the beach. – **lin•ger•ing** /ˈlɪŋgərɪŋ/ *adj* ▪ This latest evidence should remove any *lingering* doubts/questions about his innocence. ▪ The company is still trying to recover from the *lingering* effects of the strike. ▪ a long, *lingering* kiss ▪ a last, *lingering* look ▪ He suffered a long, *lingering* [=very slow] death. – **lin•ger•ing•ly** /ˈlɪŋgərɪŋli/ *adv*

lin•ge•rie /ˌlɑːnʤəˈreɪ, *Brit* ˈlænʒəri/ *noun* [*noncount*] : women's underwear and clothing that is worn in bed — often used before another noun ▪ a *lingerie* shop ▪ the *lingerie* department in a store

lin•go /ˈlɪŋgoʊ/ *noun, pl* **-goes** *informal*
1 [*count*] : a language ▪ a foreign *lingo* ▪ It can be hard to travel in a foreign country if you don't ***speak the lingo***.
2 : the special language used for a particular activity or by a particular group of people [*count*] — usually singular ▪ Basketball has a distinct *lingo*. ▪ He's starting to pick up the *lingo*. ▪ She doesn't practice law anymore, but she can still *speak the lingo*. [*noncount*] The book has a lot of computer *lingo* that I don't understand.

lin•gua fran•ca /ˈlɪŋgwəˈfræŋkə/ *noun, pl* **lin•gua fran•cas** *or* **lin•guae fran•cae** /ˈlɪŋgwiˈfræŋki/ [*count*] : a language that is used among people who speak various different languages ▪ English is used as a *lingua franca* among many airline pilots.

lin•gui•ne *or* **lin•gui•ni** /lɪŋˈgwiːni/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a type of pasta that is long, thin, and flat

lin•guist /ˈlɪŋgwɪst/ *noun, pl* **-guists** [*count*]
1 : a person who speaks several languages
2 : a person who studies linguistics

lin•guis•tic /lɪŋˈgwɪstɪk/ *adj* : of or relating to language or linguistics ▪ *linguistic* differences/development ▪ learning about *linguistic* theory
– **lin•guis•ti•cal•ly** /lɪŋˈgwɪstɪkli/ *adv*

lin•guis•tics /lɪŋˈgwɪstɪks/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the study of language and of the way languages work

lin•i•ment /ˈlɪnəmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments** [*count, noncount*] : a liquid that is rubbed on your skin to relieve pain or stiffness in your muscles

lin•ing /ˈlaɪnɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-ings** [*count*] : material that covers the inner surface of something ▪ The coat had a soft *lining*. ▪ gloves with silk *linings* ▪ brake *linings* ▪ the *lining* of the bladder/stomach ▪ intestinal *lining* — see also SILVER LINING

[1]link /ˈlɪŋk/ *verb* **links**; **linked**; **link•ing**
1 a : to join or connect (two or more things, places, etc.) together [+ *obj*] A bridge *links* the island to the mainland. ▪ The rooms are *linked* by hallways. ▪ He drew a line *linking* New York and/with/to Los Angeles on the map. ▪ She *linked* (up) the paper clips to form a chain. ▪ The elderly couple ***linked arms*** [=kept their bent arms hooked together at the elbow] as they walked down the street. [*no obj*] The pipe *links* (up) to/with the main gas line. **b** : to connect (someone or something) to a system, network, etc. [+ *obj*] The network *links* several terminals. ▪ The computer is *linked* with/to the fax machine. ▪ providing equipment to *link* (up) students to the Internet [*no obj*] Guests can *link* (up) to the Internet from their hotel rooms.
2 a [+ *obj*] : to show or prove that a person or thing is related to or involved with something ▪ The study *links* high cholesterol levels to/with an increased risk of heart attacks. ▪ The police said that they have evidence *linking* him to these crimes. **b** ✧ A thing or person that ***is linked to/with*** something is connected or related to it in some way. ▪ High cholesterol *is linked to* an increased risk of heart attacks. ▪ He denied that his business partner *was* in any way *linked to* the theft. ▪ Scientists have discovered a gene that *is linked to/with* [=*involved in*] the development of Alzheimer's disease. ▪ Your raise *is linked to* your job performance. [=your raise is related to your job performance; the size of your raise is related to how well you do your job] ▪ He argues that poverty *is* directly/indirectly *linked to/with* certain health problems. ▪ My fate *is* inextricably *linked to* hers. = Our fates *are* inextricably *linked*.
3 : to cause (different groups, countries, etc.) to be joined together [+ *obj*] The marriage of their children has *linked* the two families. ▪ These countries are *linked* in a loose confederation. [*no obj*] Her company recently *linked* (up) with three others to form a multinational association.

[2]link *noun, pl* **links** [*count*]
1 a : a relationship or connection between things ▪ Their research shows a *link* between high cholesterol and an increased risk of heart attacks. [=shows that high cholesterol

causes an increased risk of heart attacks] ▪ Police have discovered/established a direct *link* between the two murders. **b :** a relationship between people, groups, nations, etc. ▪ The government has established/forged trade *links* with other countries. ▪ She felt a strong *link* with/to her ancestors. **2 a :** something that allows movement from one place to another ▪ The bridge was the island's *link* to the mainland. ▪ There are plans to build a rail *link* from the airport to the city. **b :** something that allows two or more people or things to communicate with each other ▪ A radio was his only *link* to the outside world. ▪ a satellite/video *link* **c :** HYPERLINK ▪ His Web site includes *links* to other sites. **3 :** a single part of a chain ▪ The chain broke at its weakest *link*. — often used figuratively ▪ an important *link* in the chain of events [=an important event in a series of related events] ▪ It is the ***weak link*** [=the least strong or successful part] in the company's line of products. ▪ the ***weakest link*** in a computer network [=the part of a computer network that is most likely to fail] **4** *US* **:** a long, narrow piece of sausage in a series of connected pieces; *also* **:** a small sausage that is long and narrow

– see also CUFF LINK, LINKS, MISSING LINK

link•age /ˈlɪŋkɪʤ/ *noun, pl* **-ag•es**

1 : a connection or relationship between two or more things [*count*] *linkages* between population growth and disease [*noncount*] Some researchers doubt that there is any *linkage* between these phenomena. [=they doubt that these phenomena are connected or related] **2** [*count*] **:** a part that connects two or more things ▪ repairing a broken *linkage*

linking verb *noun, pl* **~ verbs** [*count*] *grammar* **:** a verb (such as *appear, be, become, feel, grow*, or *seem*) that connects a subject with an adjective or noun that describes or identifies the subject ▪ "Look" in "you look happy" and "are" in "my favorite fruits are apples and oranges" are *linking verbs*. — compare ACTION VERB

links /ˈlɪŋks/ *noun, pl* **links** [*count*] **:** a golf course ▪ On Saturday morning, he's always out on the *links*.; *especially* **:** a golf course that is next to the ocean ▪ a seaside *links*

link•up /ˈlɪŋkˌʌp/ *noun, pl* **-ups**

1 [*count, noncount*] **:** the act of joining or connecting two things ▪ The maneuver will be done following (the) *linkup* of the two spacecraft. **2** [*count*] **:** a connection that allows two or more people or things to communicate with each other ▪ The interview will be broadcast nationally through a satellite *linkup*. ▪ A direct telephone *linkup* has been established.

lin•net /ˈlɪnət/ *noun, pl* **-nets** [*count*] **:** a small European bird that is a kind of finch

li•no /ˈlaɪnoʊ/ *noun* [*noncount*] *Brit, informal* **:** LINOLEUM

li•no•leum /ləˈnoʊlijəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] **:** a type of material that is produced in thin sheets, has a shiny surface, and is used to cover floors and counters

lin•seed /ˈlɪnˌsi:d/ *noun* [*noncount*] **:** the seed of the flax plant

linseed oil *noun* [*noncount*] **:** a yellowish oil from the seeds of the flax plant that is used in paint, printing ink, etc.

lint /ˈlɪnt/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 *chiefly US* **:** tiny pieces of cloth or another soft material ▪ I always have *lint* in my pocket. ▪ The clothes dryer was clogged with *lint*. **2** *Brit* **:** a soft material that is used for covering and protecting cuts and wounds

lin•tel /ˈlɪntl/ *noun, pl* **-tels** [*count*] **:** a piece of wood or stone that lies across the top of a door or window and holds the weight of the structure above it

li•on /ˈlajən/ *noun, pl* **-ons** [*count*]

1 : a large wild cat that has golden brown fur and that lives mainly in Africa ▪ the roar of the *lion* ✧ The male lion has long, dark hair called a "mane" growing around its neck. — see picture at CAT; see also MOUNTAIN LION, SEA LION **2 :** a very important, powerful, or successful person ▪ He was a literary *lion* among the writers of his time. ▪ a social *lion*

li•on•ess /ˈlajənəs/ *noun, pl* **-ess•es** [*count*] **:** a female lion

li•on•heart•ed /ˈlajənˌhɑɚtəd/ *adj* **:** very brave ▪ a *lion-hearted* hero

li•on•ize *also Brit* **li•on•ise** /ˈlajəˌnaɪz/ *verb* **-iz•es; -ized; -iz•ing** [+ *obj*] **:** to treat (someone) as a very important and famous person ▪ She was *lionized* everywhere after her novel won the Pulitzer Prize.

– **li•on•i•za•tion** *also Brit* **-i•sa•tion** /ˌlajənəˈzeɪʃən, *Brit* ˌlajəˌnaɪˈzeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

lion's den *noun* [*singular*] **:** a place or situation in which someone must deal with an angry person or group of people ▪ He knew that he would be facing an angry crowd, but he entered the *lion's den* without hesitating.

lion's share *noun* [*noncount*] **:** the largest part of something ▪ He took the *lion's share* of the blame [=most of the blame] for the accident. ▪ She claimed the *lion's share* of the credit for the show's success.

lip /ˈlɪp/ *noun, pl* **lips**

1 [*count*] **:** either one of the two soft parts that surround the mouth ▪ the lower/upper *lip* ▪ thin/thick/full *lips* ▪ He had a cut on his *lip*. ▪ He kissed her (right) on the *lips*. ▪ She was nervously ***biting her lip***. ▪ She had ***a smile on her lips*** [=she was smiling] — see picture at MOUTH; see also *stiff upper lip* at ¹STIFF **2** [*count*] **:** the edge of a cut or hole ▪ the *lips* of a wound ▪ the *lip* of a crater **3** [*count*] **:** the edge of a container especially where it is slightly spread out ▪ the *lip* of a pitcher **4** [*noncount*] *informal* **:** rude speech in reply to someone who should be spoken to with respect ▪ Don't give me any of your *lip*! [=don't talk to me in that disrespectful way]

button your lip/lips see ²BUTTON

fat lip see ¹FAT

lick your lips see ¹LICK

my lips are sealed *informal* — used to say that you will not tell secret information to anyone ▪ Your secret is safe with me: *my lips are sealed*.

on everyone's/everybody's lips *informal* **:** being said or discussed by many people ▪ The celebrity murder trial was *on everyone's lips*.

on the lips of *informal* **:** being said or discussed by (people) ▪ trendy words *on the lips of* talk show hosts ▪ a topic that is *on the lips of* many people

pass your lips see ¹PASS

read lips see ¹READ

smack your lips see ¹SMACK

zip your lip see ¹ZIP

lip•id /ˈlɪpəd/ *noun, pl* **-ids** [*count*] *technical* **:** any one of various substances that contain fat and that are important parts of living cells

li•po•suc•tion /ˈlaɪpəˌsʌkʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* **:** a kind of surgery that removes fat from a person's body

lipped /ˈlɪpt/ *adj* **:** having lips of a specified type — used in combination with another adjective ▪ a thin-*lipped* man [=a man with thin lips] — see also TIGHT-LIPPED

lip•py /ˈlɪpi/ *adj* **lip•pi•er; -est** *informal* **:** speaking in a rude way that shows a lack of respect ▪ *lippy* kids ▪ Don't ***get lippy*** with me.

lip–read /ˈlɪpˌri:d/ *verb* **-reads; -read** /-ˌrɛd/; **-read•ing** /-ˌri:dɪŋ/ **:** to understand what people are saying by watching the movement of their lips [*no obj*] a deaf person who knows how to *lip-read* [=*read lips*] [+ *obj*] He was *lip-reading* the conversation.

– **lip–read•er** /ˈlɪpˌri:dɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ a skillful *lip-reader* – **lip–reading** *noun* [*noncount*]

lip service *noun* [*noncount*] **:** support for someone or something that is expressed by someone in words but that is not shown in that person's actions ▪ She paid/gave/offered *lip service* to blue-collar workers, but she did nothing to help them. ▪ So far all we've gotten from him is *lip service*.

lip•stick /ˈlɪpˌstɪk/ *noun, pl* **-sticks** [*count, noncount*] **:** a type of makeup that is spread on the lips and that comes in the form of a stick ▪ She was wearing bright red *lipstick*. ▪ I put on some *lipstick*. — see picture at GROOMING

lip–synch *or* **lip–sync** /ˈlɪpˌsɪŋk/ *verb* **-synchs** *or* **-syncs; -synched** *or* **-synced; -synch•ing** *or* **-sync•ing :** to pretend to sing or say (recorded words) [+ *obj*] He *lip-synched* the song that was playing on the radio. [*no obj*] He *lip-synched* to the song. ▪ It was obvious that he was *lip-synching*.

liq•ue•fy *also* **liq•ui•fy** /ˈlɪkwəˌfaɪ/ *verb* **-fies; -fied; -fy•ing** **:** to cause (something) to become liquid [+ *obj*] The intense heat *liquefied* [=*melted*] the plastic. ▪ The vegetables were *liquefied* in a blender. [*no obj*] The plastic *liquefied* in the intense heat.

li•queur /lɪˈkɚ, *Brit* lɪˈkjʊə/ *noun, pl* **-queurs** [*count, noncount*] **:** a sweet, strong alcoholic drink that is usually flavored with fruits or spices and drunk in small glasses after a meal ▪ a bottle of orange *liqueur*

¹liq•uid /ˈlɪkwəd/ *noun, pl* **-uids :** a substance that is able to flow freely **:** FLUID [*count*] Water and milk are *liquids*. ▪ His

diet was restricted to *liquids*. = He was on a ***liquid diet***. [*noncount*] a bottle of green *liquid*

[2]liquid *adj*

1 : capable of flowing freely like water : not a solid or a gas • Water and milk are *liquid* substances. • *liquid* mercury/detergent • The medicine is available in *liquid* form. • They offered us snacks and ***liquid refreshments***. [=*drinks*]

2 *literary* **a** : shining and clear • She had large *liquid* eyes. **b** : clear, smooth, and pleasant in sound • the *liquid* notes of a bird **c** : having or showing a smooth and easy style • the *liquid* grace of the dancer's movements

3 *business* : made up of money or easily changed into money • *liquid* assets • *liquid* funds/investments

liq·ui·date /ˈlɪkwəˌdeɪt/ *verb* **-dates**; **-dat·ed**; **-dat·ing**

1 *business* **a** : to sell (a business, property, etc.) especially to pay off debt [+ *obj*] The owners were ordered to *liquidate* the company and pay their creditors. • The company is *liquidating* its assets. • They *liquidated* the estate. [=they sold the property of the estate] [*no obj*] The owners were ordered to *liquidate*. **b** [+ *obj*] : to pay all the money owed for (a debt) • *liquidate* a debt/loan

2 [+ *obj*] *informal* : to destroy (something) or kill (someone) • The film is about a professional killer who's hired to *liquidate* a powerful businessman.

– **liq·ui·da·tion** /ˌlɪkwəˈdeɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*noncount*] raising money by the *liquidation* of assets • The company was forced ***into liquidation***. [*count*] inventory *liquidations* – **liq·ui·da·tor** /ˈlɪkwəˌdeɪtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*]

liquid crystal display *noun, pl* ~ **-plays** [*count*] : LCD

li·quid·i·ty /lɪˈkwɪdəti/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 *business* **a** : the state of having things that can be easily changed into money • The company has progressively increased its *liquidity*. **b** : the quality of being easily changed into money • the *liquidity* of his investments

2 *technical* : the quality or state of being liquid

liq·uid·iz·er /ˈlɪkwəˌdaɪzɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *Brit* : BLENDER

liquify *variant spelling of* LIQUEFY

li·quor /ˈlɪkɚ/ *noun* : an alcoholic drink; *especially* : a strong alcoholic drink [*noncount*] Do you serve *liquor*? • He drinks beer and wine, but he doesn't drink any ***hard liquor***. [*count*] vodka, whiskey, and other *liquors* — often used before another noun • a *liquor* bottle/store • The restaurant has a *liquor* license. [=a license that allows it to sell liquor] — see also MALT LIQUOR

hold your liquor *informal* : to be able to drink alcoholic beverages without becoming too drunk • He can't *hold his liquor* at all.

liquorice *chiefly Brit spelling of* LICORICE

li·ra /ˈlirə/ *noun* [*count*]

1 *pl* ***li·re*** /ˈliˌreɪ/ *or* ***liras*** : a basic unit of money that was formerly used in Italy; *also* : a coin or bill representing one Italian lira

2 *pl* ***liras*** : the basic unit of money in Turkey; *also* : a coin or bill representing one Turkish lira

lisp /ˈlɪsp/ *noun* [*singular*] : a speech problem that causes someone to pronounce the letters "s" and "z" like "th" • He spoke with a *lisp*.

– **lisp** *verb* **lisps**; **lisped**; **lisp·ing** [*no obj*] a child who *lisps* [+ *obj*] He *lisped* (out) his reply. – **lisp·er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

lis·some *or chiefly Brit* **lis·som** /ˈlɪsəm/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : thin and graceful — usually used of women • a *lissome* fashion model

[1]list /ˈlɪst/ *noun, pl* **lists** [*count*]

1 : a series of names, words, numbers, etc., that are usually written down with each new one appearing below the previous one • a long/short *list* of names • the first/last name on the *list* = the name at the top/bottom of the *list* • Make a *list* of the ingredients you need to bake the cake. • draw up a *list* • I wrote a *list* of the books I've most enjoyed. • a growing *list* of volunteers • a ***grocery list*** [=a list of groceries to be bought] • The restaurant has an extensive ***wine list***. [=a list of the wines that are available in a restaurant] • Her first novel was on the ***best-seller list*** for two months. [=the list of books that are selling the most copies] • We were included in the ***guest list***. [=the list of people who are invited to something, such as a party] • I have a long *list* of things to do. = I have a long ***to-do list***. • ***High on my list*** (of things to do) is getting the car fixed. • I like all of his books, but this one is ***at the top of the list***. [=this is the best one] — see also CHECKLIST, DEAN'S LIST, DISABLED LIST, HIT LIST, LAUNDRY LIST, MAILING LIST, SHOPPING LIST, SHORT LIST, WAITING LIST, WISH LIST

2 *US, informal* : LIST PRICE • The car sells for a *list* of $30,000.

– compare [4]LIST

[2]list *verb* **lists**; **list·ed**; **list·ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to make a list of (names, things, etc.) • He *listed* the required qualifications for the job. • *List* the ingredients that you need to bake the cake. • I *listed* my likes and dislikes.

2 [+ *obj*] **a** : to include (something) in a list • Her telephone number is *listed* [=*entered*] in the directory. **b** : to enter information about (someone or something) in a list • The hospital has *listed* him (as being) in fair condition. • The animal has been *listed* as endangered/threatened. • He *lists* himself as a political liberal. [=he says that he is a political liberal]

3 [*no obj*] *US* : to have a specified list price • The car *lists* at/for $30,000.

– compare [3]LIST

[3]list *verb* **lists**; **listed**; **listing** [*no obj*] *of a ship* : to lean to one side • The ship was *listing* heavily to port/starboard.

— compare [2]LIST

[4]list *noun* [*singular*] : the condition of a ship that is leaning to one side • The ship had a heavy *list* to starboard. — compare [1]LIST

[1]lis·ten /ˈlɪsn̩/ *verb* **lis·tens**; **lis·tened**; **lis·ten·ing** [*no obj*]

1 a : to pay attention to someone or something in order to hear what is being said, sung, played, etc. • I *listened* as hard as I could, but I couldn't hear a word of what he said over all that noise. • She *listened* with interest as he told her about his travels. — often + *to* • Everyone *listened* closely/carefully *to* the firefighter's instructions. • I enjoy *listening to* classical music. • He turned the radio on and *listened to* the news. **b** — used to tell a person to listen to what you are saying • *Listen*, no one is more concerned about this problem than I am. • Now *listen* (here), you can't keep treating people this way.

2 : to hear what someone has said and understand that it is serious, important, or true • She tried to warn him of the dangers, but he wouldn't *listen*. — often + *to* • Nobody *listened to* her warnings. • Her ideas are worth *listening to*. • I told him to be more careful, but he wouldn't *listen to* me. • You should *listen to* your father [=you should take your father's advice]: he knows what he's talking about. • The judge refused to *listen to* their pleas.

listen for *or Brit* ***listen out for*** [*phrasal verb*] ***listen for (something)*** *or Brit* ***listen out for (something)*** : to pay attention to sounds in order to hear (something expected) • We *listened for* (the sound of) his footsteps. • We saw lightning and *listened for* the thunder.

listen in [*phrasal verb*] **1** : to listen to a radio broadcast • We'll have some interesting guests on tomorrow's show, so be sure to *listen in*. [=*tune in*] **2** : to listen to a conversation without being part of it • They let me *listen in* when the plans were presented.; *especially* : to listen secretly to a private conversation : EAVESDROP — usually + *on* • Someone was *listening in on* our telephone conversation.

listen up [*phrasal verb*] *chiefly US, informal* : to listen closely to what is being said — usually used as a command • Everybody *listen up*! I have something to say.

– **lis·ten·er** /ˈlɪsn̩ɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] • She's a good *listener*. [=she is good at listening to other people and understanding what they are saying] • a radio program that has many *listeners*

[2]listen *noun* [*singular*] : the act of listening to something • Have a *listen* to this. [=listen to this]

lis·ten·a·ble /ˈlɪsn̩əbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : pleasant to listen to • He finds some of his son's music very *listenable*.

listening device *noun, pl* ~ **-vices** [*count*] : a small hidden microphone that is used to secretly listen to and record people • The police planted/installed a *listening device* in the home of the suspected mobster. — called also *bug*

list·ing /ˈlɪstɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-ings**

1 a [*count*] : a printed list — usually + *of* • The book includes a *listing of* local restaurants. **b** ***listings*** [*plural*] : a printed list of things that includes detailed information about them • The newspaper provides movie *listings*. [=information about where and when movies are being shown in theaters] • TV *listings* [=information about when and on what channel television programs will be shown] • job *listings*

2 [*count*] : something included in a list • The telephone *listing* is wrong. [=they listed the wrong telephone number]

3 [*count*] : the act of including something in a list or the state

of being included in a list ▪ The company is seeking a *listing* on the stock exchange. [=the company wants to be listed on the stock exchange]

list•less /ˈlɪstləs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : lacking energy or spirit ▪ The heat made everyone tired and *listless*. ▪ The party was a *listless* affair. ▪ a *listless* economy
– **list•less•ly** *adv* ▪ The cat was lying *listlessly* on the bed. – **list•less•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] Symptoms include depression and *listlessness*. [*singular*] He was filled with a *listlessness* he couldn't explain.

list price *noun, pl* ~ **prices** [*count*] : the price of a product that is shown in a catalog, advertisement, etc. ▪ The car's *list price* was $30,000, but the actual selling price was less. ▪ We were given a 10 percent discount off the *list price*.

List•serv /ˈlɪstˌsəːv/ *trademark* — used for software that allows e-mail messages to be sent to and received from a list of subscribers

[1]lit /ˈlɪt/ *past tense and past participle of* [3]LIGHT

[2]lit *noun* [*noncount*] *informal* : LITERATURE ▪ I signed up to take a course in American/English *lit*.

lit•a•ny /ˈlɪtni/ *noun, pl* **-nies** [*count*]
1 : a prayer in a Christian church service in which the people at the service respond to lines spoken by the person who is leading the service
2 : a long list of complaints, problems, etc. ▪ He has a *litany* of grievances against his former employer. ▪ The team blamed its losses on a *litany* of injuries.

litchi *variant spelling of* LYCHEE

lite /ˈlaɪt/ *adj, US* : containing fewer calories or less fat than usual : LIGHT ▪ *lite* beer ▪ *lite* salad dressing

li•ter (*US*) *or chiefly Brit* **li•tre** /ˈliːtə/ *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*] : a metric unit for measuring the volume of a liquid or gas that is equal to 1.057 quarts ▪ a *liter* of water

lit•er•a•cy /ˈlɪtərəsi/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : the ability to read and write ▪ The program is intended to promote adult *literacy* among people who have had very little schooling. ▪ Their goal is to achieve basic *literacy*. ▪ *literacy* programs/skills/tests
2 : knowledge that relates to a specified subject ▪ computer *literacy* [=knowledge of how to use a computer] ▪ cultural *literacy* [=knowledge of the culture you live in]

lit•er•al /ˈlɪtərəl/ *adj*
1 : involving the ordinary or usual meaning of a word ▪ I was using the word in its *literal* sense. ▪ The *literal* meaning of "know your ropes" is "to know a lot about ropes," while figuratively it means "to know a lot about how to do something."
2 : giving the meaning of each individual word : EXACT ▪ a *literal* translation of a book
3 : completely true and accurate : not exaggerated ▪ The story he told was basically true, even if it wasn't the *literal* truth.
4 [*more* ~; *most* ~] — used to describe someone who understands words and statements only in the most basic and ordinary way and does not have much imagination ▪ He was a very *literal* [=*literal-minded*] man.
– **lit•er•al•ness** /ˈlɪtərəlnəs/ *noun* [*noncount*]

lit•er•al•ly /ˈlɪtərəli/ *adv*
1 : in a literal way: such as **a** : in a way that uses the ordinary and usual meaning of a word ▪ Many words can be used both *literally* and figuratively. ▪ He took her comments *literally*. ▪ He's a sailor who knows his ropes, *literally* and figuratively. **b** — used to stress that a statement or description is true and accurate even though it may be surprising ▪ He was *literally* [=*truly, actually*] insane. ▪ He was quite *literally* jumping up and down in his rage. ▪ The party was attended by *literally* hundreds of people. **c** : with the meaning of each individual word given exactly ▪ The term "Mardi Gras" *literally* means "Fat Tuesday" in French. **d** : in a completely accurate way ▪ The story he told was basically true, even if it wasn't *literally* true.
2 *informal* — used in an exaggerated way to emphasize a statement or description that is not literally true or possible ▪ The group *literally* poured out new ideas. [=the group produced many new ideas] ▪ Steam was *literally* coming out of his ears. [=he was very angry] ▪ She was *literally* beside herself with rage.

lit•er•al–mind•ed /ˈlɪtərəlˌmaɪndəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : LITERAL 4 ▪ a very *literal-minded* man
– **lit•er•al–mind•ed•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

lit•er•ary /ˈlɪtəˌreri, *Brit* ˈlɪtrəri/ *adj*
1 a : of or relating to literature ▪ American *literary* culture/tradition ▪ a *literary* magazine ▪ Do his books have any *literary* merit? ▪ Mystery fiction is only one of many *literary* forms. ▪ *literary* criticism/theory **b** : used in literature ▪ a *literary* word ▪ an essay written in a very *literary* style ▪ The author uses many *literary* devices in his work.
2 *always used before a noun* : having a lot of knowledge about literature : known for reading or writing books ▪ a *literary* man
3 *always used before a noun* : relating to the writing and publishing of literature ▪ He entered the *literary* world right out of college. ▪ She hired a *literary* agent.

lit•er•ate /ˈlɪtərət/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : able to read and write ▪ He was barely *literate*. ▪ She is *literate* in both English and Spanish. ▪ What percentage of the population is *literate*? — opposite ILLITERATE
2 : having or showing knowledge about a particular subject ▪ The job requires you to be computer *literate*. ▪ politically *literate* — opposite ILLITERATE
– **literate** *noun, pl* **-ates** [*count*] ▪ computer *literates* [=people who know how to use computers]

li•te•ra•ti /ˌlɪtəˈrɑːˌtiː/ *noun*
the literati : educated people who know about and are interested in literature ▪ a new novelist who has been embraced by *the literati*

lit•er•a•ture /ˈlɪtərəʧə/ *noun, pl* **-tures**
1 : written works (such as poems, plays, and novels) that are considered to be very good and to have lasting importance [*noncount*] She took courses in history and *literature*. ▪ Her education gave her an appreciation for great *literature*. ▪ He's an expert in American/German *literature*. ▪ the *literature* of the Renaissance [*count*] studies in different Asian *literatures*
2 [*noncount*] **a** : books, articles, etc., about a particular subject ▪ medical/scientific *literature* ▪ To be knowledgeable about the latest technology, you've got to keep abreast of the (relevant) *literature*. **b** : printed materials (such as booklets, leaflets, and brochures) that provide information about something ▪ Can you send me some *literature* about your product? ▪ promotional/sales *literature*

lithe /ˈlaɪð/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : moving in an easy and graceful way ▪ a *lithe*, muscular athlete ▪ the *lithe* body of a dancer
– **lithe•ly** *adv* – **lithe•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

lith•i•um /ˈlɪθijəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a soft silver-white element that is the lightest metal known

lith•o•graph /ˈlɪθəˌgræf, *Brit* ˈlɪθəˌgrɑːf/ *noun, pl* **-graphs** [*count*] : a picture made by lithography ▪ a book of his finest *lithographs*

li•thog•ra•phy /lɪˈθɑːgrəfi/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a method of printing from a flat surface (such as a smooth stone or a metal plate) that has been prepared so that the ink will only stick to the design that will be printed
– **li•tho•gra•pher** /lɪˈθɑːgrəfə/ *noun, pl* **-phers** [*count*] – **lith•o•graph•ic** /ˌlɪθəˈgræfɪk/ *adj* ▪ the *lithographic* process ▪ *lithographic* ink/printing – **litho•graph•i•cal•ly** /ˌlɪθəˈgræfɪkli/ *adv*

lit•i•gant /ˈlɪtɪgənt/ *noun, pl* **-gants** [*count*] *law* : a person who is involved in a lawsuit : someone who is suing another person or is being sued by another person

lit•i•gate /ˈlɪtəˌgeɪt/ *verb* **-gates**; **-gat•ed**; **-gat•ing** *law* : to make (something) the subject of a lawsuit : to cause (a case, an issue, etc.) to be decided and settled in a court of law [+ *obj*] They agree to *litigate* all disputes in this court. [*no obj*] The company's unwillingness to make a deal increased her desire to *litigate*.
– **lit•i•ga•tion** /ˌlɪtəˈgeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ He is involved in *litigation* against the city. ▪ The case is still ***in litigation***. [=being decided in a court of law] – **lit•i•ga•tor** /ˈlɪtəˌgeɪtə/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*] ▪ She is a famous/successful *litigator*. [=*lawyer*]

li•ti•gious /ləˈtɪʤəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : too ready or eager to sue someone or something in a court of law : tending or likely to engage in lawsuits ▪ a very *litigious* group of people ▪ this *litigious* age/society in which we live
– **li•ti•gious•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

lit•mus paper /ˈlɪtməs-/ *noun* [*noncount*] *technical* : special paper that is used to test how much acid is in a solution ✧ Litmus paper turns red in acid solutions and blue in alkaline solutions.

litmus test *noun, pl* ~ **tests** [*count*] : something (such as an opinion about a political or moral issue) that is used to make a judgment about whether someone or something is acceptable ▪ The party is using attitudes about gun control as a *litmus test* for political candidates. — compare ACID TEST

litre *Brit spelling of* LITER

[1]lit•ter /ˈlɪtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ters**

1 a [*noncount*] : things that have been thrown away and that are lying on the ground in a public place ▪ We decided to pick up the *litter* in the park. ▪ roadside *litter* **b** [*singular*] : a messy pile or group of things ▪ Her desk was covered with a *litter* of legal documents.

2 [*noncount*] **a** : dry material that is spread in a container and used as a toilet by animals (especially cats) while they are indoors ▪ cat/kitty *litter* ▪ (*chiefly US*) a ***litter box*** = (*Brit*) a ***litter tray*** [=a container holding litter for a cat] **b** : soft and dry material (such as straw) that is spread on the ground for some animals (such as horses) to sleep on

3 [*count*] : a group of young animals that are born at a single time ▪ a *litter* of puppies/piglets ▪ He was the runt of the *litter*. [=the smallest animal in the litter] — often used figuratively in the phrase ***the pick of the litter*** ▪ Of all the cars on the market, this one is clearly *the pick of the litter*. [=the best one]

4 [*count*] : a covered bed that has long poles on the bottom and that was used in the past for carrying a very important person ▪ The emperor was carried to the palace on a *litter*.

[2]litter *verb* **-ters; -tered; -ter•ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to cover (a surface) with many things in an untidy way ▪ Paper and popcorn *littered* the streets after the parade. ▪ Leaves *littered* the forest floor. [=the forest floor was covered with leaves] ▪ a desk *littered* with old letters and bills — often used figuratively ▪ a landscape *littered* with ugly houses ▪ Dirty words *litter* his vocabulary. [=his vocabulary includes many dirty words; he says a lot of dirty words] ▪ The book is *littered* with errors. [=the book contains many errors]

2 [*no obj*] : to throw or leave trash on the ground in a public place ▪ It is illegal to *litter*. ▪ He had to pay a fine for *littering*.

– **lit•ter•er** /ˈlɪtɚɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ *Litterers* are subject to a fine.

litter bin *noun, pl* ~ **bins** [*count*] *Brit* : TRASH CAN

lit•ter•bug /ˈlɪtɚˌbʌg/ *noun, pl* **-bugs** [*count*] *informal* : a person who throws or leaves trash in a public place — called also (*Brit*) *litter lout*

[1]lit•tle /ˈlɪtl̩/ *adj* **less** /ˈlɛs/ *or* **less•er** /ˈlɛsɚ/ *also* **lit•tler** /ˈlɪtl̩ɚ/; **least** /ˈliːst/ *also* **lit•tlest** /ˈlɪtl̩əst/

1 a : small in size ▪ She has *little* feet. ▪ a *little* island/airplane ▪ a *little* business ▪ Our school is *little*. ▪ a ***tiny little*** fish ▪ This room is *littler* [=(more commonly) *smaller*] than that one. **b** : not tall : SHORT ▪ a *little* man ▪ a *littler* [=(more commonly) *smaller, shorter*] man **c** : small in amount ▪ I have very *little* money, so I can't lend you any. ▪ I have *less* money than I did before. ▪ I got very *little* sleep last night. ▪ There's *little* hope of a rescue now. ▪ You have *little* choice but to pay attention. ▪ The new version bears *little* resemblance to the original. ▪ These programs have very/precious *little* chance of succeeding. ▪ The help he offered us was ***too little, too late***. [=it was not as much help as we needed and it was offered too late to be helpful] ▪ There has been ***little if any*** improvement. [=there has been almost no improvement] ▪ These trinkets have ***little or no*** value. ▪ There was ***no little*** sadness in his voice. [=there was a lot of sadness in his voice] **d** : not having many things or people included ▪ We're having a *little* party this weekend. ▪ a *little* group of people ▪ a *little* village ▪ her *little* hometown

2 : young or younger ▪ I loved swimming when I was *little*. ▪ a *little* boy/girl ▪ He's very proud of his *little* boy/girl. [=of his young son/daughter] ▪ How's your *little* one? [=your young(est) son or daughter] ▪ my ***little brother/sister*** [=my brother/sister who is younger than I am]

3 *always used before a noun* : not lasting for a long time ▪ I have to take a *little* break. ▪ We sat down for a *little* chat. ▪ We talked for a *little* while.

4 *always used before a noun* : not very important ▪ There are a few *little* problems that still have to be dealt with. ▪ He memorized every *little* detail of the scene. — sometimes used in an ironic way to describe something important ▪ There's just one *little* problem we haven't discussed: the company is going bankrupt! ▪ I need to talk to you about the *little* matter of the money you owe me.

5 *always used before a noun* : not easily seen, heard, etc. ▪ He gave her a *little* smile. ▪ She made a *little* wave with her hand. ▪ She spoke in a quiet *little* voice.

6 *always used before a noun* **a** — used to refer to someone or something in an approving or friendly way ▪ That's a nice *little* car you've got there. ▪ You poor *little* thing. ▪ Bless your *little* heart. **b** — used to refer to someone or something in a disapproving or critical way ▪ He's a *little* jerk. ▪ It was a mean *little* joke. ▪ She has a dirty *little* secret.

7 *always used before a noun* : not open to new ideas ▪ people with *little* [=*small, narrow*] minds

– **lit•tle•ness** /ˈlɪtl̩nəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *littleness* of the room ▪ the *littleness* of their minds

[2]little *adv* **less; least**

1 a : in a very small amount or degree ▪ She works very *little* and sleeps even *less*. ▪ Please speak ***as little as possible***. **b** : hardly at all : not very much ▪ We had *little* more than we needed. ▪ She cared *little* (about) what he thought. ▪ His art is *little* known in this country. ▪ a *little*-known fact ▪ She *little* knew what fate had in store for her. = ***Little did she know*** what fate had in store for her.

2 : not very often ▪ She travels *little*. [=she rarely travels]

little by little : by small steps or amounts : GRADUALLY ▪ *Little by little*, he got better. ▪ The protest gathered strength *little by little*. ▪ I got to know them *little by little*.

little more than *or* ***little better than*** : not much more or better than (something) : only slightly more or better than (something) ▪ They ate *little more than* ice cream and hot dogs all day.

[3]little *pronoun* : a small amount or quantity ▪ There is *little* we can do to help. ▪ *Little* is known about her life. ▪ They say precious *little* [=they do not say much] about their job. ▪ They understand *little* of what is going on. ▪ His argument did *little* to change their minds. [=his argument did not change their minds]

a little **1** : not much but some ▪ I don't want much: I want just *a little* bit/piece. ▪ There's *a little* brown sugar in these cookies. ▪ I have *a little* money, so I may be able to lend you some. ▪ They offered him ***a little something*** to drink before dinner. [=they offered him something to drink] ▪ There was ***more than a little*** sadness [=there was much sadness] in his voice. **2** : not much but somewhat or slightly ▪ It bothered me *a little*. ▪ His house is down the street *a little* further. ▪ His house is down the street *a little*. = It's *a little* down the street. ▪ I'm feeling *a little* better today. ▪ Repairs will begin in *a little* [=*slightly*] more than a month. ▪ He was ***not a little*** annoyed [=he was very annoyed] at the interruption. ▪ Her vision of the future was ***more than a little*** upsetting. [=was very upsetting] **3** : for a brief time ▪ Please stay here with me *a little*. ▪ We can walk *a little* and then catch a cab. **4** : a small amount or quantity ▪ There is only *a* very *little* at stake here. ▪ They don't understand much but they do understand *a little*. ▪ There's still some money in the bank, but only *a* very *little*. ▪ They understand ***more than a little of*** what is going on. [=they understand much of what is going on] ▪ Don't use too much of this. ***A little goes a long way***. [=a small amount will be enough]

a little bit **1** : to some extent : SOMEWHAT ▪ This one is *a little bit* bigger than that one. ▪ It bothered me *a little bit*. **2** *chiefly US* : a short time ▪ We talked for *a little bit*. **3** : a small amount of something ▪ The buffet had *a little bit* of everything. ▪ We have *a little bit* of time left. ▪ Oh, I'll have just *a little bit*, thanks.

as little as — used to suggest that a number or quantity is surprisingly small ▪ I could be back in *as little as* five days.

little wonder see [1]WONDER

little bitty *adj, chiefly US, informal* : very small : TINY ▪ She was living in a *little bitty* apartment.

Little Dipper *noun*

the Little Dipper *US* : a group of seven stars including the North Star in the northern sky that forms the shape of a dipper or ladle and that is smaller than the Big Dipper — compare BIG DIPPER

little finger *noun, pl* ~ **-gers** [*count*] : the finger that is farthest from your thumb — called also (*chiefly US + Scotland*) *pinkie*; see picture at HAND

little guy *noun*

the little guy *chiefly US, informal* : LITTLE MAN

Little League *noun* [*singular*] *US* : a baseball league for boys and girls from 8 to 12 years old ▪ a man who coaches *Little League* [=who coaches a team in Little League] ▪ a *Little League* team/game/player/coach

– **Little Leaguer** *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] ▪ His son is a *Little Leaguer*. [=a Little League player]

little man *noun*

the little man *chiefly US, informal* : an ordinary person who is not wealthy, famous, or powerful — used to refer to such people in general ▪ a politician who portrays himself as a friend of *the little man* — called also *the little guy*

little people *noun* [*plural*]
1 : ordinary people who are not wealthy, famous, or powerful ▪ I'd like to thank all the *little people* who made my success possible.
2 : people of unusually small size
3 : very small imaginary beings (especially leprechauns) with magical powers ▪ a fairy tale about the *little people*

little toe *noun, pl* ~ **toes** [*count*] : the smallest toe on the outside of your foot

little woman *noun*
the little woman *old-fashioned + humorous + sometimes offensive* — used to refer to a man's wife ▪ He bought a bouquet of flowers for *the little woman*. [=for his wife]

lit•to•ral /ˈlɪtərəl/ *adj, technical* : of, relating to, or having a coast ▪ *littoral* waters ▪ a *littoral* country [=a country that has a coast]
– **littoral** *noun, pl* **-rals** [*count*] ▪ the Atlantic *littoral* [=coastal region]

lit•ur•gy /ˈlɪtərʤi/ *noun, pl* **-gies** : a fixed set of ceremonies, words, etc., that are used during public worship in a religion [*count*] studying the *liturgies* of different religions [*noncount*] He was studying Christian *liturgy*.
– **li•tur•gi•cal** /ləˈtərʤɪkəl/ *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ The church used Latin as the *liturgical* language. ▪ the *liturgical* calendar [=a list of the important holy days in a religion]

liv•able *or chiefly Brit* **live•able** /ˈlɪvəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : suitable to live in : enjoyable to live in ▪ a *livable* city ▪ They described the house as very/barely *livable*.
2 *US* : making it possible to live or to have the things that people need to live properly ▪ *livable* conditions ▪ People need jobs that will pay them *livable* wages.
– **liv•abil•i•ty** *or chiefly Brit* **live•abil•i•ty** /ˌlɪvəˈbɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*]

[1]live /ˈlɪv/ *verb* **lives**; **lived**; **liv•ing**
1 [*no obj*] **a** : to be alive ▪ We learned about the people who *lived* during colonial times. ▪ I wonder what it was like to *live* then. ▪ She's one of the greatest writers who ever *lived*. ▪ It was one of the largest animals that has ever *lived*. **b** : to continue to be alive ▪ He *lived* to the age of 92. ▪ He's very sick and he may not *live* much longer. ▪ I hope to *live* (long enough) to see my grandchildren grow up. ▪ I hope I *live* to see the day when you admit you've been wrong about me! ▪ I'll remember that day ***for as long as I live***. ▪ She's ***living on borrowed time***. [=she is continuing to live after she was expected to die, but she will probably die soon] ▪ ***Long live*** the Queen/King! [=may the Queen/King live for many years]
2 [*no obj*] **a** : to have a home in a specified place ▪ He *lives* next door to his parents. ▪ We *lived in* the city/suburbs/country. ▪ I *live* on Main St. [=my house is on Main St.] ▪ It's a nice place to visit, but I wouldn't want to *live* there. ▪ He's still *living* at home (with his parents). ▪ animals *living* in zoos **b** *of a plant or animal* : to grow naturally in a specified place or area ▪ Tigers don't *live* in Africa. [=there are no tigers in the wild in Africa] ▪ We've been studying the plants and animals that *live* in this area.
3 : to spend your life in a certain way or condition [*no obj*] They *live* well/simply. ▪ He likes to *live* dangerously. ▪ They *lived* peacefully for many years. ▪ animals *living* in captivity ▪ We know very little about how people in these ancient cultures *lived*. ▪ They all ***lived happily ever after***. [=they all lived happily for the rest of their lives] ▪ He is ***living within/beyond his means***. [=he can/cannot afford the things that he buys or the way he lives] [+ *obj*] If she believes that, she's *living* a fantasy. [=she is not seeing or accepting reality] ▪ They are *living* the American Dream. [=they are experiencing success in America]
4 [*no obj*] : to have an enjoyable and exciting life ▪ Now that he's retired he just wants to ***live a little***. [=to spend time doing enjoyable things] ▪ ***You haven't lived*** until you've had a piece of my mom's apple pie! [=you would greatly enjoy my mom's apple pie]
5 [+ *obj*] **a** : to spend (your life or part of your life) in a specified way ▪ They *lived* (the rest of) their lives in quiet retirement. ▪ He had *lived* a childhood free from worry. ▪ She *lived* her final years in seclusion. ▪ He ***lived life to the full/fullest***. [=he fully enjoyed his life] **b** : to have (a particular kind of life) ▪ She wants to *live* [=*lead*] a more productive life. ▪ They *live* a normal life. ▪ They are *living* a life of luxury. ▪ He made a lot of money in the stock market and he's been ***living the good life*** [=living the life of a wealthy person] ever since.
6 [*no obj*] : to continue to exist ▪ The good that people do *lives* long after they are gone. ▪ That day will always *live* in my memory. [=I will always remember that day]
7 [*no obj*] *chiefly Brit, informal* : to belong in a specified place : to be located or stored ▪ "Where does this book *live*?" "It goes/belongs on the top shelf."

live a lie see [4]LIE
live and breathe see BREATHE
live and learn *or* ***you live and (you) learn*** *informal* — used to say that you have learned something from an experience that is surprising and usually unpleasant ▪ I thought I could trust him, but I couldn't. Oh well, *you live and learn*.
live and let live : to let others live the way they want to ▪ His philosophy was to *live and let live*.
live by [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***live by (something)*** : to agree with and follow (something, such as a set of beliefs) ▪ He tried to *live by* his faith. ▪ a principle I try to *live by* **2 a** ***live by (doing something)*** : to survive by (doing something) ▪ They were an ancient people who *lived by* hunting and gathering. **b** ***live by your wits*** : to survive by doing clever and sometimes dishonest things ▪ Out in the jungle, with no food or shelter, he had to *live by his wits*. ▪ a young thief who *lives by her wits*
live down [*phrasal verb*] ***live down (something)*** *or* ***live (something) down*** : to stop being blamed or laughed at for (something, such as a foolish or embarrassing error) ▪ He has a very bad reputation to *live down*. — often used in negative statements ▪ I can't believe I forgot my wife's birthday! I'll never *live* this *down*.
live for [*phrasal verb*] ***live for (something)*** **1** : to wait or hope for (something) very eagerly ▪ I *live for* the day when we'll be together! **2** : to think of (something) as the most important or enjoyable part of your life ▪ She *lives for* her work. : to think of (something) as a reason for being alive ▪ He's depressed and feels as if he has nothing left to *live for*.
live in [*phrasal verb*] *chiefly Brit* : to live in the place where you work : to live in another person's home ▪ a maid who *lives in*
live in hope see [2]HOPE
live in sin *old-fashioned* : to live together and have sex without being married ▪ His mother did not want him *living in sin* with his girlfriend.
live in the past : to think too much about something that happened in the past ▪ You have to accept that he's gone and stop *living in the past*.
live it up *informal* : to do exciting and enjoyable things ▪ He's been *living it up* out in California with his friends.
live large *US slang* : to live like a very wealthy and successful person ▪ a star who is *living large*
live off [*phrasal verb*] ***live off (something or someone)*** : to use (someone or something) as a source of the money or other things you need to live ▪ He has been *living off* his inheritance. ▪ He has been *living off* his girlfriend. [=his girlfriend has been supporting him financially] ▪ farmers who *live off* the land
live on [*phrasal verb*] **1** : to continue to exist ▪ His legend *lives on*. **2** ***live on (something)*** **a** : to have or use (an amount of money) to pay for the things that you need to live ▪ You can't *live on* this salary. [=this salary does not provide enough money for food, shelter, etc.] **b** : to have (a particular food) as the only or main food that you eat ▪ They *lived* mainly/mostly *on* fruits and berries.
live out [*phrasal verb*] **1** *Brit* : to live away from the place where you work ▪ a servant who *lives out* **2** ***live out (something)*** *or* ***live (something) out*** **a** : to spend the rest of (your life) in a specified way ▪ He *lived out* (the final years of) his life in quiet retirement. **b** : to do (the things you have dreamed of doing) ▪ He has finally had the chance to *live out* his dreams/fantasies.
live through [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***live through (something)*** : to survive (an experience, a troubling time, etc.) : ENDURE ▪ If I can *live through* this, I can *live through* anything. **2** ***live through (someone)*** *US, sometimes disapproving* : to enjoy the experiences and achievements of (another person) instead of your own experiences and achievements ▪ She can't *live through* her daughter.
live together [*phrasal verb*] : to live with another person and have sex without being married ▪ They *lived together* for several months before getting married.
live up to [*phrasal verb*] ***live up to (something)*** **1** : to do what is required by (something) ▪ She *lived up to* her promises. [=she kept her promises] **2** : to be good enough for (something) ▪ He has found it difficult to *live up to* his

name/reputation. [=to be as good/successful as people think he is or should be] ▪ Their vacation didn't *live up to* their expectations. [=their vacation wasn't as good as they expected it to be]

live with [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***live with (something)*** : to accept and deal with (something unpleasant) ▪ You have to learn to *live with* [=*put up with*] other people's mistakes. ▪ I don't agree with his decision, but I'll have to *live with* it. ▪ Until we get a better answer, we will have to *live with* not knowing for sure. ▪ Because there was no cure, he had to learn to *live with* the disease. **2** ***live with (someone)*** : to live together and usually have sex with (someone) ▪ She's been *living with* him since college.

[2]live /ˈlaɪv/ *adj*

1 a *always used before a noun* : having life : living or alive ▪ They object to the use of *live* animals in scientific experiments. ▪ a ***live birth*** [=a birth of a living child or animal] **b** *informal* : not imaginary : actually existing — used in the phrase ***real live*** ▪ Everyone was excited about seeing a *real live* celebrity. [=an actual celebrity]

2 a : done in front of an audience : of or involving a play, concert, etc., that is performed in front of people ▪ a nightclub with *live* music/entertainment ▪ The group has just released a ***live album***. [=an album made by recording a performance before an audience] **b** : watching a performance as it happens ▪ a television program filmed before a *live* (studio) audience **c** : broadcast while a performance, event, etc., is happening : not recorded earlier ▪ a *live* television/radio program ▪ She was nervous about being interviewed on *live* radio. ▪ The network is providing *live* coverage of the debate.

3 : carrying an electric current : connected to electric power ▪ Use caution when you are working near *live* electrical wires. ▪ a *live* microphone — see also LIVE WIRE

4 *always used before a noun* **a** : carrying a charge and capable of exploding or being shot ▪ a *live* bomb ▪ *live* ammunition ▪ We had thought the guns were loaded with blanks, but the soldiers were actually shooting *live* bullets. **b** : burning without a flame : GLOWING ▪ *live* coals

5 : not yet decided or settled : still causing discussion, disagreement, or concern ▪ a *live* issue ▪ a *live* controversy

6 *US, sports* : still in play ▪ The ball is *live* until it goes out of bounds.

7 *Brit, of yogurt* : containing living bacteria ▪ We sell *live* yogurt.

[3]live /ˈlaɪv/ *adv* : during, from, or at the actual time that something (such as a performance or event) happens ▪ The program was shown *live*. ▪ We are broadcasting *live* from downtown. ▪ Here he is—*live* in concert! ▪ The album was recorded *live*.

go live : to begin operating or to become available for use ▪ Our new Web site will be *going live* next month.

liveable *chiefly Brit spelling of* LIVABLE

live action *noun* [*noncount*] : a movie or scene in which actors and sets are used : a movie or scene that is not produced by animation ▪ a combination of *live action* and animation

– **live–ac·tion** /ˈlaɪvˈækʃən/ *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ a *live-action* scene/film/sequence

-lived /ˌlɪvd/ *combining form* : having a life of a specified length ▪ long-*lived* ▪ relatively short-*lived*

lived–in /ˈlɪvdˌɪn/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]

1 : having a comfortable and appealing appearance or quality that comes from being used for a long time ▪ The room has a *lived-in* look to it. ▪ a *lived-in* kitchen

2 : showing the effects of age ▪ a *lived-in* voice ▪ a *lived-in* face

live–in /ˈlɪvˌɪn/ *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : living in the place where you work ▪ a *live-in* maid [=a maid who lives in the house where she works]

2 : living with someone else (especially a boyfriend or girlfriend) ▪ a young woman and her *live-in* boyfriend [=her boyfriend who is living with her] ▪ his *live-in* girlfriend

live·li·hood /ˈlaɪvliˌhʊd/ *noun, pl* **-hoods** : a way of earning money in order to live [*count*] Many fishermen believe that the new regulations threaten their *livelihoods*. [*noncount*] (*formal*) He claims he lost a source/means of *livelihood* when he was injured.

live·long /ˈlɪvˌlɑːŋ/ *adj*

(all) the livelong day *old-fashioned + humorous* : all day ▪ I've been working *all the livelong day*.

live·ly /ˈlaɪvli/ *adj* **live·li·er; -est** [*also more ~; most ~*]

1 : very active and energetic ▪ *lively* children ▪ a very *lively* puppy ▪ She has a very ***lively imagination***. [=she imagines many things]

2 : full of energy, excitement, or feeling ▪ a very *lively* writing style ▪ The book is *lively* and well written. ▪ They had a *lively* debate/discussion. ▪ She takes a ***lively interest*** in politics. [=she is very interested in politics]

3 : full of movement or activity ▪ *lively* streets ▪ a *lively* dance ▪ A *lively* atmosphere keeps people coming back to the café. ▪ Trading on the stock market today was rather *lively*. [=*active*]

step lively (*chiefly US*) *or chiefly Brit* ***look lively*** : to go or move quickly : HURRY ▪ You'll have to *step lively* if you don't want to be late for work.

– **live·li·ness** *noun* [*noncount*] the *liveliness* of the children/discussion/dance [*singular*] There's a wonderful *liveliness* about him.

liv·en /ˈlaɪvən/ *verb* **-ens; -ened; -en·ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to make (something) more lively, interesting, or exciting ▪ He played some music to *liven* the atmosphere. — usually + *up* ▪ She tried to *liven up* [=*enliven*] her speech with a few jokes. ▪ He suggested that we *liven* things *up* with a friendly bet on the game.

2 [*no obj*] : to become more lively, interesting, or exciting — + *up* ▪ The party really *livened up* after she arrived.

live oak /ˈlaɪv-/ *noun, pl ~* **oaks** [*count*] : a large type of oak tree that grows in the southern U.S.

liv·er /ˈlɪvɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers**

1 [*count*] : a large organ of the body that produces bile and cleans the blood — see picture at HUMAN

2 : the liver of an animal (such as a calf or a chicken) that is eaten as food [*noncount*] We had *liver* and onions for dinner. [*count*] sautéed chicken *livers*

liv·er·ied /ˈlɪvərid/ *adj, formal* : wearing a livery ▪ a *liveried* servant/chauffeur

liv·er·wurst /ˈlɪvɚˌwɚst/ *noun* [*noncount*] *chiefly US* : a type of soft sausage made chiefly of cooked liver ▪ a pound of *liverwurst* ▪ a *liverwurst* sandwich — called also (*chiefly Brit*) *liver sausage*

liv·ery /ˈlɪvəri/ *noun, pl* **-eries**

1 [*noncount*] : the business of keeping vehicles that people can hire — usually used before another noun ▪ *livery* service ▪ a *livery* cab

2 *Brit* : the colors or designs that are used on a company's products, vehicles, etc. [*noncount*] aircraft *livery* ▪ cars with similar *livery* [*count*] cars with similar *liveries*

3 : a special uniform worn by servants especially in the past [*noncount*] servants in blue *livery* [*count*] servants wearing *liveries*

lives *plural of* [1]LIFE

live·stock /ˈlaɪvˌstɑːk/ *noun* : farm animals (such as cows, horses, and pigs) that are kept, raised, and used by people [*plural*] a market where *livestock* are bought and sold [*noncount*] a market where *livestock* is bought and sold

live wire *noun, pl ~* **wires** [*count*] *informal* : a very lively and energetic person ▪ She's a real *live wire*.

liv·id /ˈlɪvəd/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]

1 : very angry : FURIOUS ▪ My father was *livid* (with rage) when I came home three hours late.

2 *literary* : having a dark purplish color ▪ a *livid* bruise

[1]liv·ing /ˈlɪvɪŋ/ *adj*

1 : not dead : having life ▪ I was taught to respect all *living* things. ▪ *living* beings/creatures/animals/plants ▪ His aunt is his closest *living* relative. ▪ He's one of our greatest *living* authors. ▪ She's a ***living legend***. [=a very famous and admired person who is still alive] ▪ It was the first time I had ever seen a ***living, breathing*** bear in the wild.

2 *always used before a noun* : currently active or being used ▪ a *living* faith ▪ *living* cultures ▪ a ***living language*** [=a language that is still being used and spoken by people]

3 *always used before a noun* : having the form of a person who is alive ▪ He is the ***living embodiment*** of cheapness. [=he is very cheap] ▪ I'm ***living proof*** that success is possible. [=my success shows that other people can succeed as well]

4 *always used before a noun* : of or relating to the place, conditions, or manner in which people live ▪ He and his wife have an unusual ***living arrangement***; they work in different cities and only see each other on weekends. ▪ They use their backyard as an outdoor ***living area***. ▪ They're moving to a larger home because they need more ***living space***. ▪ These poor children are being raised in terrible ***living conditions***. ▪ He gave me a tour of his ***living quarters***. [=the rooms where he lives]

5 *informal* — used to emphasize a noun ▪ You scared the *liv-*

ing daylights out of me! • They threatened to beat the *living* crap out of him.

in living color : in the bright colors of real life • a television program shown *in living color* — often used figuratively • His opinions are aired once a week *in living color*. [=on a television program]

in/within living memory : during a time that can be remembered by people who are still alive • These events occurred *within living memory*.

[2]living *noun, pl* **-ings**

1 [*count*] : a way of earning money : the money that someone needs to pay for housing, food, etc. — usually singular • His investments provide him with a good *living*. [=provide him with enough money to live well] • What do you do ***for a living***? [=what is your job?] • He struggled to ***scratch/eke out a living*** as a farmer. • He ***earned a/his living*** as a cook. = He ***made a living*** by working as a cook.

2 [*noncount*] : a way of living • the challenges of city *living* • outdoor *living* • healthy *living* • It's summertime, and the *living* is easy. — see also ASSISTED LIVING, COST OF LIVING, STANDARD OF LIVING

3 ***the living*** : people who are alive • *the living* and the dead • The world belongs to *the living*.

in the land of the living see [1]LAND

living room *noun, pl* ~ **rooms** [*count*] : a room in a house for general family use — usually singular • He is watching TV in the *living room*.

living standard *noun, pl* ~ **-dards** [*count*] : STANDARD OF LIVING — usually plural • trying to improve/raise *living standards* for poor people

living wage *noun* [*singular*] : an amount of money you are paid for a job that is large enough to provide you with the basic things (such as food and shelter) needed to live an acceptable life • He was barely earning a *living wage*.

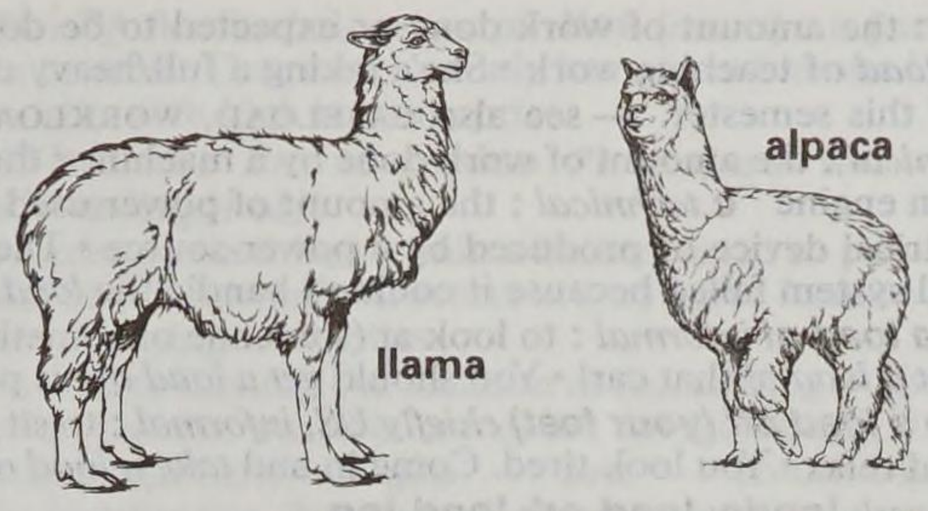
living will *noun, pl* ~ **wills** [*count*] *law* : a document in which you say what medical decisions should be made if you become too sick or injured to make those decisions ✧ A living will usually says that a very sick or injured person should be allowed to die if there is no real hope of recovery.

liz•ard /ˈlɪzəd/ *noun, pl* **-ards** [*count*] : a type of reptile that has four legs and a long body and tail

ll *abbr* lines • *ll* 15–25

'll — used as a contraction of *will* • That*'ll* be enough. • I don't know who*'ll* be there.

lla•ma /ˈlɑːmə/ *noun, pl* **-mas** [*count*] : a South American animal that has a long neck and thick fur and that is used for its wool and for carrying things



lo /ˈloʊ/ *interj, old-fashioned + literary* — used to call attention to something or to show wonder or surprise • *Lo*, the king approaches! • the adventures we have shared for *lo* these many years

lo and behold — used to express wonder or surprise; often used in a humorous or ironic way • She appeared on a magazine cover, and *lo and behold*, she began to get offers to star in movies. • We opened the door, and *lo and behold*, the delivery man had arrived.

[1]load /ˈloʊd/ *noun, pl* **loads** [*count*]

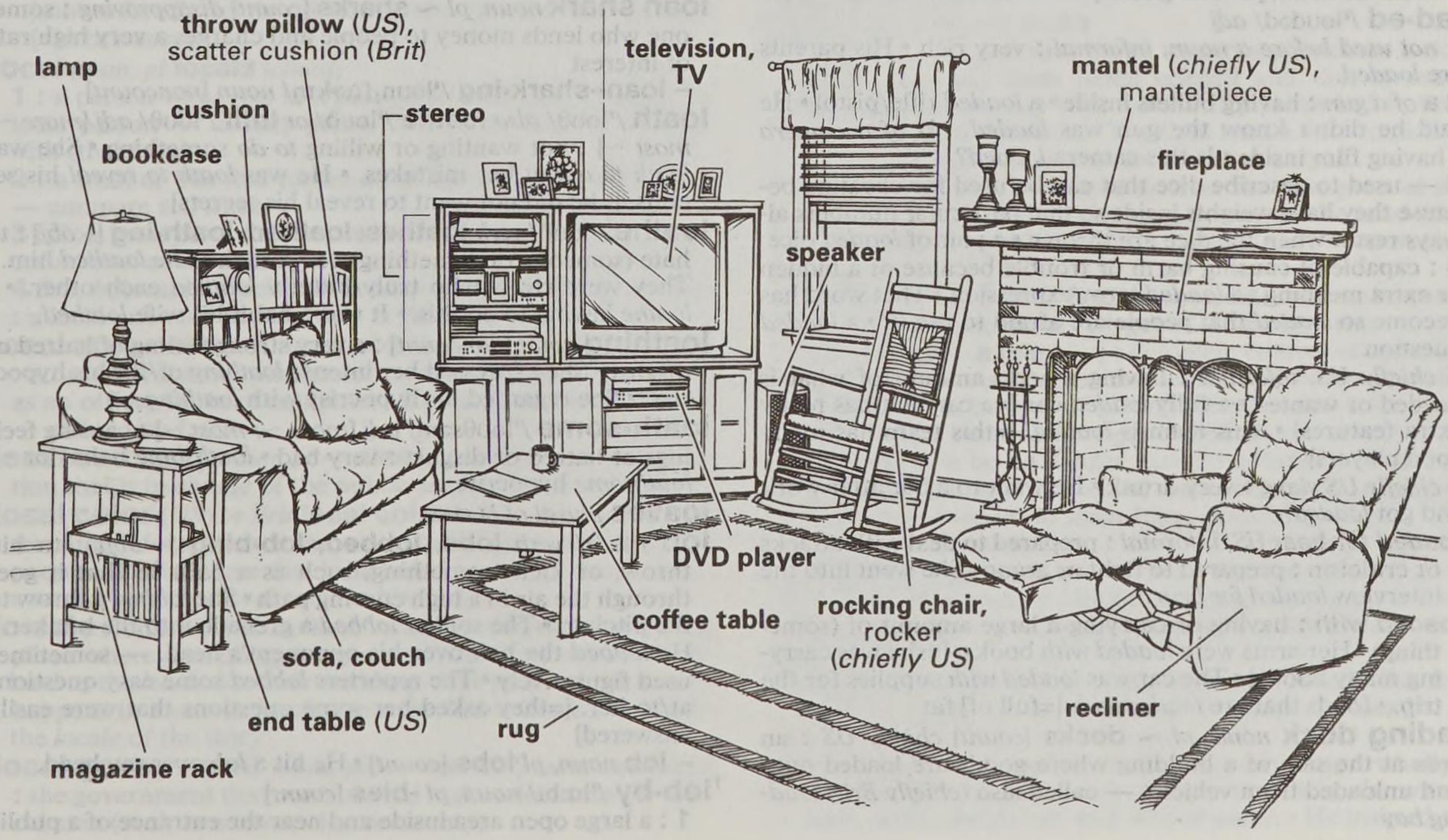
1 a : something that is lifted and carried • He lifted the *load* onto his shoulders. • donkeys hauling/carrying large *loads* • She was carrying a heavy *load* of legal documents in her briefcase. • a light *load* **b** : an amount that can be carried at one time : an amount that fills something (such as a truck) • He picked up a *load* of firewood and carried it into the house. • The truck was carrying a full *load* of sand. • a ***load of laundry*** [=the amount of laundry that can fit into a washing machine] — often used in combination • an arm*load* of firewood • a truck*load* of sand • a boat*load* of tourists

2 *somewhat technical* : the weight that is carried or supported by something • Losing weight will lessen the *load* on your knees. • a *load*-bearing wall [=a wall that supports the weight of a building]

3 a : something that causes worry or sadness • His death is a heavy *load* to bear. • The good news has really ***taken a load off my mind***. [=has allowed me to stop worrying; has made me feel relieved] **b** : a difficult responsibility • There's a lot of work to be done, and you have to carry/bear your share of the *load*. [=you have to do your share of the work] • I wish there were some way I could help lift this *load* [=*weight, burden*] from his shoulders. • The company is trying to reduce its ***debt load***. [=the amount of money that it owes]

4 *informal* **a** : a large amount of something • They had a *load* of trouble. — usually plural • We had *loads* of fun. • The house has *loads* of room. • I have *loads* [=many things] to do today. **b** — used in phrases like ***a load of garbage***, ***a load of trash***, ***a load of hot air***, etc., to say that something is worthless • I think their ideas are a *load of garbage*!

living room



5 a : the amount of work done or expected to be done ▪ a full *load* of teaching work ▪ She's taking a full/heavy course *load* this semester. — see also CASELOAD, WORKLOAD **b** *technical* : the amount of work done by a machine ▪ the *load* on an engine **c** *technical* : the amount of power used by an electrical device or produced by a power source ▪ The electrical system failed because it couldn't handle the *load*.

get a load of *informal* : to look at (someone or something) ▪ *Get a load of* that car! ▪ You should *get a load of* his pants.

take a load off (your feet) *chiefly US, informal* : to sit down and relax ▪ You look tired. Come in and *take a load off*.

²load *verb* **loads; load•ed; load•ing**

1 a : to put an amount of something in or on (something) [+ *obj*] *load* a truck with packages ▪ We *loaded* (up) the car and drove off. ▪ Workers were *loading* and unloading the ships as they came into port. [*no obj*] We *loaded* up and drove off. **b** [+ *obj*] : to put (an amount of something) into or onto something ▪ *load* packages on/onto a truck ▪ We *loaded* our luggage in/into the car and drove off. ▪ Workers were *loading* cargo on/onto the ships. **c** [+ *obj*] : to supply (someone or something) *with* a large amount of something ▪ Mom *loaded* me (up) *with* supplies for the hike. ▪ She *loaded* the table *with* all kinds of delicious foods. ▪ My sister *loaded* [=*filled*] her plate *with* mashed potatoes and corn.

2 : to put something necessary into a machine or device so that it can be used [+ *obj*] *load* a camera with film = *load* film into a camera ▪ *load* a gun (with bullets) = *load* bullets into a gun ▪ *load* a tape into the VCR [*no obj*] The film didn't *load* properly.

3 a [+ *obj*] *of a boat, vehicle, etc.* : to be boarded by (passengers) ▪ The bus stopped to *load* a few more passengers. **b** [*no obj*] : to go onto something (such as a boat or vehicle) ▪ The passengers *loaded* on/onto the bus.

4 *computers* : to cause (a program, file, etc.) to begin being used or displayed by a computer [+ *obj*] *load* a program ▪ *load* a new Web page [*no obj*] The program takes less time to *load* than it used to. — see also DOWNLOAD, UPLOAD

5 [+ *obj*] *baseball* : to put runners on (first, second, and third base) ▪ He drew a walk to *load* the bases. ▪ The bases are *loaded*. [=there are runners on each of the bases]

load down with [*phrasal verb*] ***load (someone or something) down with (something)*** : to cause or force (someone or something) to accept or deal with (something difficult) — usually used as *(be) loaded down with* ▪ The company *is loaded down with* debt. [=is burdened with debt; has a large amount of debt] ▪ I'*m loaded down with* homework.

load the dice see ¹DICE

load up on [*phrasal verb*] ***load up on (something)*** *informal* **1** : to drink or eat a large amount of (something) ▪ people *loading up on* fatty foods **2** : to get a large amount of (something) ▪ investors who have been *loading up on* hot stocks

– load•er *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ a film *loader*

load•ed /ˈloʊdəd/ *adj*

1 *not used before a noun, informal* : very rich ▪ His parents are *loaded*.

2 a *of a gun* : having bullets inside ▪ a *loaded* rifle/pistol ▪ He said he didn't know the gun was *loaded*. **b** *of a camera* : having film inside ▪ Is this camera *loaded*?

3 — used to describe dice that can be used for cheating because they have weights inside so that particular numbers always result when the dice are thrown ▪ a pair of *loaded* dice

4 : capable of causing harm or trouble because of a hidden or extra meaning ▪ a *loaded* term/expression ▪ That word has become so *loaded* that people are afraid to use it. ▪ a *loaded* question

5 *chiefly US, informal* : having a good amount of what is needed or wanted ▪ a fully *loaded* car [=a car that has many extra features] ▪ This team is *loaded*. [=this team has many good players]

6 *chiefly US slang* : very drunk ▪ He went to a bar after work and got *loaded*.

loaded for bear *US, informal* : prepared to deal with attacks or criticism : prepared to fight or argue ▪ She went into the interview *loaded for bear*.

loaded with : having or carrying a large amount of (something) ▪ Her arms were *loaded with* books. [=she was carrying many books] ▪ The car was *loaded with* supplies for the trip. ▪ foods that are *loaded with* [=full of] fat

loading dock *noun, pl* **~ docks** [*count*] *chiefly US* : an area at the side of a building where goods are loaded onto and unloaded from vehicles — called also (*chiefly Brit*) *loading bay*

¹loaf /ˈloʊf/ *noun, pl* **loaves** /ˈloʊvz/

1 [*count*] : an amount of bread that has been baked in a long, round, or square shape ▪ slicing a *loaf* of bread

2 [*count, noncount*] : a dish made from foods (such as chopped meat, eggs, and seasoning) that are pressed together, shaped, and usually baked ▪ a salmon *loaf* — see also MEAT LOAF

²loaf *verb* **loafs; loafed; loaf•ing** [*no obj*] : to spend time relaxing instead of working ▪ I spent most of the weekend just *loafing* around the house. ▪ He has been accused of *loafing* on the job. [=he has been accused of not working when he should be working]

loaf•er /ˈloʊfɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

1 : a low shoe with no laces — usually plural ▪ He wore *loafers* with no socks. ▪ slipped on a pair of *loafers* — see picture at SHOE; see also PENNY LOAFER

2 : a person who does not work hard ▪ She's a lazy *loafer*.

loam /ˈloʊm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a type of soil that is good for growing plants

– loamy /ˈloʊmi/ *adj* **loam•i•er; -est** ▪ *loamy* soil

¹loan /ˈloʊn/ *noun, pl* **loans**

1 [*count*] : an amount of money that is given to someone for a period of time with a promise that it will be paid back : an amount of money that is borrowed ▪ He took out a *loan* (from the bank) to pay for the car. ▪ He got a car *loan*. ▪ He'll need several more years to pay off/back the rest of the *loan*. ▪ She needed money, so she asked her friend for a *loan*. ▪ a ***student loan*** [=a loan that is used to pay for a student's education] ▪ a ***bank loan*** [=a loan that is made by a bank] ▪ a ***personal loan*** [=a loan that is made by a bank to someone for a personal need]

2 [*noncount*] *somewhat formal* : permission to use something for a period of time ▪ Can I have the *loan* of your car? [=(more commonly) can I borrow your car?]

on loan : borrowed from someone or something for a period of time ▪ This painting is *on loan* from the National Gallery. ▪ an actor *on loan* from another sitcom ▪ Some of the workers were *on loan* as temporary staff.

²loan *verb* **loans; loaned; loan•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to give (something) to (someone) for a period of time : LEND ▪ He *loaned* his car to me. = He *loaned* me his car. [=I borrowed his car] ▪ The National Gallery has been kind enough to *loan* this painting to our museum. — sometimes + *out* ▪ The National Gallery *loaned out* the painting to another museum.

2 *chiefly US* : to give (money) to (someone) who agrees to pay it back in the future : LEND ▪ His mother *loaned* him the money to buy a new car. ▪ Can you *loan* me $20?

loan•er /ˈloʊnɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *US* : something (such as a car) that is loaned to someone as a replacement for something that is being repaired ▪ The car he's driving is a *loaner*. His own car was damaged in an accident.

loan shark *noun, pl* **~ sharks** [*count*] *disapproving* : someone who lends money to people and charges a very high rate of interest

– loan–shark•ing /ˈloʊnˌʃɑɚkɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*]

loath /ˈloʊθ/ *also* **loathe** /ˈloʊð/ *or* **loth** /ˈloʊθ/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : not wanting or willing *to do* something ▪ She was *loath to admit* her mistakes. ▪ He was *loath to reveal* his secrets. [=he did not want to reveal his secrets]

loathe /ˈloʊð/ *verb* **loathes; loathed; loath•ing** [+ *obj*] : to hate (someone or something) very much ▪ She *loathed* him. ▪ They were rivals who truly/bitterly *loathed* each other. ▪ I *loathe* having to do this. ▪ It was a habit his wife *loathed*.

loathing *noun* [*noncount*] : a very strong feeling of hatred or disgust ▪ She expressed her intense *loathing* of/for his hypocrisy. ▪ She regarded his hypocrisy with *loathing*.

loath•some /ˈloʊθsəm/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : causing feelings of hatred or disgust : very bad ▪ *loathsome* behavior ▪ a *loathsome* hypocrite

loaves *plural of* ¹LOAF

lob /ˈlɑːb/ *verb* **lobs; lobbed; lob•bing** [+ *obj*] : to hit, throw, or kick (something, such as a ball) so that it goes through the air in a high curving path ▪ She *lobbed* a throw to the pitcher. ▪ The soldier *lobbed* a grenade into the bunker. ▪ He *lobbed* the ball over his opponent's head. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ The reporters *lobbed* some easy questions at/to her. [=they asked her some questions that were easily answered]

– lob *noun, pl* **lobs** [*count*] ▪ He hit a *lob* over my head.

¹lob•by /ˈlɑːbi/ *noun, pl* **-bies** [*count*]

1 : a large open area inside and near the entrance of a public

building (such as a hotel or theater) ▪ a hotel *lobby* ▪ I'll meet you in the *lobby* after the show.

2 : an organized group of people who work together to influence government decisions that relate to a particular industry, issue, etc. ▪ the gun/tobacco *lobby* ▪ The proposed new law is supported/opposed by the oil *lobby*.

[2]lobby *verb* **-bies; -bied; -by·ing**

1 : to try to influence government officials to make decisions for or against something [*no obj*] an organization that has been *lobbying* for reform of the tax laws ▪ The healthcare industry has *lobbied* against the proposal. [+ *obj*] an organization that has been *lobbying* Congress for reform of the tax laws — often followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ They were *lobbying* Congress *to reform* the tax laws.

2 : to try to get something you want by talking to the people who make decisions [*no obj*] She has begun *lobbying* for an interview. [=trying to get an interview] ▪ a player who has *lobbied* hard to be included in the team's starting lineup [+ *obj*] I *lobbied* our company for a new computer.

– **lob·by·ist** /ˈlɑːbijɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] ▪ She was hired as a *lobbyist* for an oil company.

lobe /ˈloʊb/ *noun, pl* **lobes** [*count*]

1 : a curved or rounded part of something (such as a leaf or a part of the body) ▪ the frontal *lobe* of the brain

2 : EARLOBE

– **lobed** /ˈloʊbd/ *adj* ▪ deeply *lobed* leaves

lo·bot·o·my /loʊˈbɑːtəmi/ *noun, pl* **-mies** [*count*] *medical* : an operation in which part of the brain is cut in order to treat some mental disorders

– **lo·bot·o·mize** /loʊˈbɑːtəˌmaɪz/ *verb* **-miz·es; -mized; -miz·ing** [+ *obj*] ▪ The patient was *lobotomized*.

lob·ster /ˈlɑːbstɚ/ *noun, pl* **-sters**

1 [*count*] : an ocean animal that has a long body, a hard shell, and a pair of large claws and that is caught for food — see color picture on page C8

2 [*noncount*] : the meat of the lobster eaten as food ▪ I had *lobster* for dinner.

lobster pot *noun, pl* ~ **pots** [*count*] : a trap for catching lobsters

[1]lo·cal /ˈloʊkəl/ *adj*

1 a : relating to or occurring in a particular area, city, or town ▪ *local* news ▪ a *local* custom ▪ Are you making a *local* (telephone) call or a long-distance one? ▪ a *local* newspaper ▪ *local* and state roads **b** : located or living nearby ▪ We had dinner at a *local* restaurant. ▪ The police have arrested a *local* man for the crime. ▪ This is a *local* shop for *local* people: we don't get many outsiders here.

2 *of a bus or train* : making all the stops on a route ▪ She took the *local* bus. — compare EXPRESS

3 : involving or affecting only a small area of the body ▪ a *local* infection ▪ *local* anesthesia

– **lo·cal·ly** *adv* ▪ *locally* grown corn ▪ The restaurant is known *locally* for its hamburgers. ▪ Do you live *locally*? [=in this area]

[2]local *noun, pl* **locals** [*count*]

1 : a person who lives in a particular area, city, or town : a local person — usually plural ▪ The restaurant is popular with (the) *locals*.

2 : a train or bus that makes all of the stops along its route — compare EXPRESS

3 *US* : a local part of a labor union ▪ He's the president of the union *local* at the factory.

4 *Brit, informal* : a pub that is near the place where you live : a local pub ▪ my mates down at the *local*

local area network *noun, pl* ~ **-works** [*count*] *computers* : a network that allows the computers in a small area (such as an office) to share equipment (such as printers) and data — called also *LAN*

local authority *noun, pl* ~ **-ties** [*count*] *Brit* : an organization that is in charge of the public services for a community

local color (*US*) *or Brit* **local colour** *noun* [*noncount*] : interesting information about a particular place and about the people who live there that is included in a story, movie, etc. ▪ a writer who uses *local color* in his stories

lo·cale /loʊˈkæl, *Brit* ləʊˈkɑːl/ *noun, pl* **-cales** [*count*] : the place where something happens ▪ They chose a tropical island as the *locale* for their wedding. : the place where a story happens in a movie, book, etc. ▪ the film's *locale* [=*setting*] ▪ the *locale* of the story

local government *noun, pl* ~ **-ments** [*count, noncount*] : the government that controls and makes decisions for a local area (such as a town, city, or county)

lo·cal·i·ty /loʊˈkæləti/ *noun, pl* **-ties** [*count*] : a particular place or area ▪ The plant has only been found in one *locality*. ▪ a *locality* with high housing prices

lo·cal·ize *also Brit* **lo·cal·ise** /ˈloʊkəˌlaɪz/ *verb* **-iz·es; -ized; -iz·ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to keep (something) within a limited area : to prevent the spread of (something) ▪ Doctors are trying to *localize* the infection by using antibiotics.

2 : to find or identify the location of (something) ▪ The computer technician was able to *localize* the fault quickly.

– **lo·cal·i·za·tion** *also Brit* **lo·cal·i·sa·tion** /ˌloʊkələˈzeɪʃən, *Brit* ˌləʊkəˌlaɪˈzeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

localized *also Brit* **localised** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : occurring only within a small area ▪ The storm has caused *localized* flooding. ▪ a *localized* infection

local time *noun* [*noncount*] : the time in a particular part of the world ▪ We'll be arriving in New York at 10:45 *local time*. [=it will be 10:45 in New York when we arrive]

lo·cate /ˈloʊˌkeɪt, loʊˈkeɪt/ *verb* **-cates; -cat·ed; -cat·ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to find the place or position of (something or someone) ▪ We tried to *locate* the border of the property. ▪ Can you *locate* your town on the map? ▪ The missing boy was *located* by police in the woods. ▪ The mechanic is still trying to *locate* the source of the problem. ▪ Reporters have been unable to *locate* the mayor for his comments.

2 a [+ *obj*] : to put (something or someone) in a particular place ▪ The company chose to *locate* its factory near the airport. ▪ The guard *located* [=*stationed, positioned*] himself by the back door. **b** [*no obj*] *US* : to make an area, city, etc., your home or the place where your business operates ▪ The company *located* near the airport. ▪ His parents *located* in Ohio. **c** ✧ Something or someone that ***is located*** in a specified place is in or at that place. ▪ The bathroom *is located* upstairs. ▪ The company's factory *is located* [=*situated*] near the airport. ▪ He was working in Chicago for many years, but he *is* currently *located* in New York. ▪ The restaurant *is* conveniently *located* just a few minutes from my house.

lo·ca·tion /loʊˈkeɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**

1 [*count*] : a place or position ▪ This is a lovely *location* for a house. ▪ The store has a new *location*. ▪ The company is moving its factory to a different *location*. ▪ Radar established the precise *location* of the aircraft.

2 : a place outside a studio where a movie is filmed [*count*] All of his movies feature lavish sets and exotic *locations*. [*noncount*] The picture was filmed ***on location*** in the desert.

3 [*noncount*] : the act of finding where something or someone is : the act of locating something or someone ▪ Fog made *location* of the harbor difficult.

loch /ˈlɑːk/ *noun, pl* **lochs** [*count*] *Scotland* : a lake or a part of the sea that is almost surrounded by land — used in names ▪ *Loch* Lomond ▪ *Loch* Ness

loci *plural of* LOCUS

[1]lock /ˈlɑːk/ *noun, pl* **locks**

1 [*count*] : a device that keeps something (such as a door, window, or box) from being opened and that is usually opened by using a key ▪ We had no key so we had to break the *lock* to open the door. ▪ The thief used a wire to pick the *lock*. — see also COMBINATION LOCK, PADLOCK

2 [*count*] : an area in a canal or river that has gates at each end which are opened and closed to control the level of the water in different sections of the canal or river as boats move through it

3 [*count*] : a method of holding someone so that the person being held cannot move ▪ a leg *lock* — see also HEADLOCK

4 *US, informal* **a** [*singular*] : complete control of something ▪ He appears to ***have a lock on*** the nomination for governor. [=he appears to be sure of getting the nomination for governor] ▪ He has been able to ***get a lock on*** the nomination. ▪ There seems to be no danger that the company will ***lose its lock on*** the industry. **b** [*count*] : someone or something that is certain to have or do something — usually singular ▪ He's a *lock* for the nomination. = He's a *lock* to get the nomination. [=he is certain to get the nomination] ▪ The team is a *lock* to win the championship. **c** [*count*] : something that is certain to happen — usually singular ▪ It looks like his nomination is a *lock*.

5 [*count, noncount*] *Brit* : the extent to which the front wheels of a vehicle can be turned ▪ a car ***on full lock*** [=a car with its wheels turned as far as possible]

lock, stock, and barrel : including everything : wholly or completely ▪ She gave her friend everything she owned, *lock, stock, and barrel*, and moved away. ▪ He insisted that

he be given control of the business, *lock, stock, and barrel.*
under lock and key : in a room, box, etc., that is locked ▪ The jewels are kept *under lock and key*. ▪ The prisoner is being kept/held *under lock and key*.
– compare ³LOCK

²lock *verb* **locks; locked; lock•ing**
1 a [+ *obj*] : to fasten (something) with a lock ▪ They *locked* the door when they left and unlocked it when they returned. ▪ She *locked* the bicycle to the railing with a chain. ▪ The door was *locked*. **b** [+ *obj*] : to fasten the door, lid, etc., of (something) with a lock ▪ He forgot to *lock* the car. ▪ They *locked* the box (shut) with a padlock. ▪ a *locked* room — often + *up* ▪ She *locked up* the house. **c** [*no obj*] : to become fastened with a lock ▪ The door *locked* behind him. [=after he went through it] ▪ The car *locks* automatically when you start the engine.
2 a [*no obj*] : to become fixed in one position ▪ The wheels/brakes *locked* and the car skidded off the road. ▪ Their eyes *locked*. [=they looked directly at each other without looking away] **b** [+ *obj*] : to hold (someone or something) in a fixed position ▪ He *locked* her in his arms. = He *locked* her in a tight/close embrace. [=he embraced her tightly/closely] ▪ They were *locked* in each other's arms. ▪ He *locked* his fingers around her wrist [=he gripped her wrist very tightly] and refused to let go. ▪ She *locked* her hands around the steering wheel. ▪ Protesters *locked* [=*linked*] arms across the forest road. ▪ His ***eyes were locked on*** her as she walked across the room. [=he was looking at her and at nothing else] ▪ Repeat the exercise, being careful not to ***lock your knees***. [=being careful not to hold your knees in a fully extended position] — often used figuratively ▪ They were *locked* in a contract dispute. ▪ two armies *locked* in a terrible struggle/fight ▪ She was *locked* [=*trapped*] in a loveless marriage.
3 [+ *obj*] *computers* : to make (a file, database, etc.) impossible for others to open or change ▪ *lock* a database ▪ The file is *locked* for editing.
lock away [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***lock (something) away or lock away (something)*** : to put (something) in a locked container, place, etc. ▪ The jewelry was *locked away* [=*locked up*] in a cabinet. **2** ***lock (someone) away or lock away (someone)*** : to put (someone) in a locked place (such as a prison) for a long period of time ▪ *lock away* [=*lock up*] a criminal ▪ The state *locked* their sister *away* in a psychiatric hospital. **3** ***lock (yourself) away*** : to stay in a room or place by yourself for a long period of time ▪ He *locked himself away* in his room while he studied. = He was *locked away* in his room while he studied.
lock horns : to disagree about how something should be done : to fight or argue ▪ They've *locked horns* (with each other) over this issue a number of times.
lock in [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***lock (someone or something) in*** : to put or keep (someone or something) in a locked place, room, etc. ▪ She *locked* her brother *in* the bathroom. ▪ They *locked* the jewels *in* a safe. ▪ They threatened to *lock* him *in* jail. ▪ They pushed him into the room and *locked* him *in*. **2** ***lock (something) in or lock in (something)*** : to do something that makes you sure to get (something that could change, such as a good price, an interest rate, etc.) ▪ If you sign the contract today, you can *lock in* this low interest rate before it goes any higher.
lock on/onto [*phrasal verb*] ***lock on/onto (something)*** : to use electronic methods to find (a target) ▪ The pilot *locked onto* the ship and fired a missile. ▪ The missile *locked on* the target.
lock out [*phrasal verb*] ***lock (someone) out or lock out (someone)*** **1** : to prevent (someone) from entering a place, car, etc., by locking it ▪ I *locked* myself *out* accidentally. — often + *of* ▪ She *locked* her husband *out of* the house. **2** : to prevent (workers) from going to work in order to force an agreement ▪ The company has threatened to *lock out* its factory workers unless they agree to a new contract. — see also LOCKOUT
lock up [*phrasal verb*] **1** : to lock all of the doors of a building before leaving it ▪ The last employee to leave the store at night has to *lock up*. **2** ***lock (something) up or lock up (something)*** **a** : to put (something) in a locked container, room, etc. ▪ The money is *locked up* [=*locked away*] in a safe. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ Most of his money is *locked up* in real estate. [=most of his money is not easily available because it is invested in real estate] **b** *chiefly US* : to make control or achievement of (something) certain ▪ The team has first place *locked up*. [=the team is certain of getting first place] ▪ He was unable to *lock up* enough states to win the election. — see also ²LOCK 1b (above) **3** ***lock (someone) up or lock up (someone)*** : to put (someone) in a locked place (such as a prison) for a long period of time ▪ The police should *lock* him *up*. [=lock him away] — see also LOCKUP

³lock *noun, pl* **locks**
1 [*count*] : a small bunch of hair ▪ She was nervously tugging on a *lock* of her hair. — see also FORELOCK
2 ***locks*** [*plural*] *literary + humorous* : a person's hair ▪ I love her curly *locks*. [=her curly hair] ▪ her long, flowing *locks* ▪ golden *locks* — see also DREADLOCKS
– compare ¹LOCK

lock•er /ˈlɑːkɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]
1 : a cupboard or cabinet that has a door which can be locked and that is used to store personal items (such as books, clothes, shoes, etc.) ▪ a school *locker* — see also FOOTLOCKER
2 *US* : a cold room in which fresh or frozen foods are stored ▪ a meat *locker*

locker room *noun, pl* ~ **rooms** [*count*] : a room in a school, sports stadium, etc., for changing clothes and for storing clothes and equipment in lockers — called also (*Brit*) *changing room*

lock•er–room /ˈlɑːkɚˌruːm/ *adj, always used before a noun, chiefly US* : of, relating to, or suitable to a locker room ▪ the *locker-room* entrance ▪ *locker-room* language [=the kind of rough or rude language that is used by athletes in a locker room] ▪ *locker-room* humor

lock•et /ˈlɑːkət/ *noun, pl* **-ets** [*count*] : a small case that is usually worn on a chain around a person's neck ▪ She kept her husband's picture in her *locket*. — see color picture on page C11

lock•jaw /ˈlɑːkˌʤɑː/ *noun* [*noncount*] *informal* : TETANUS

lock•out /ˈlɑːkˌaʊt/ *noun, pl* **-outs** [*count*] : a situation in which an employer tries to force workers to accept certain conditions by refusing to let them come to work until those conditions are accepted — see also *lock out* at ²LOCK

lock•smith /ˈlɑːkˌsmɪθ/ *noun, pl* **-smiths** [*count*] : a person whose job is to make and repair locks

lock•step /ˈlɑːkˌstɛp/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a way of marching in which people follow each other very closely
in lockstep *chiefly US* : in a way that very closely matches someone or something else ▪ Drug use and crime grew *in lockstep*. [=they grew at the same time and at the same rate] ▪ He refused to ***march in lockstep with*** [=to conform with] others in the party.

lock•up /ˈlɑːkˌʌp/ *noun, pl* **-ups** [*count*]
1 : a place where prisoners are kept : JAIL ▪ a police station *lockup* — see also *lock up* at ²LOCK
2 *Brit* : a garage (sense 1) that is rented out — called also *lockup garage*

lo•co /ˈloʊkoʊ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *chiefly US, informal* : CRAZY ▪ The crowd went *loco* when she walked out on the stage. ▪ He's not just weird, he's positively *loco*. — see also IN LOCO PARENTIS

lo•co•mo•tion /ˌloʊkəˈmoʊʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] *technical* : the act or power of moving from place to place ▪ studying the *locomotion* of spiders [=studying how spiders move] ▪ Walking is one form of *locomotion*.

¹lo•co•mo•tive /ˌloʊkəˈmoʊtɪv/ *noun, pl* **-tives** [*count*] : the vehicle that produces the power that pulls a train

²locomotive *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *technical* : of or relating to movement from place to place : of or relating to locomotion ▪ the *locomotive* ability of spiders ▪ *locomotive* power

lo•cum /ˈloʊkəm/ *noun, pl* **-cums** [*count*] *chiefly Brit* : someone (such as a priest or doctor) who does the work of another person who is away for a short time

lo•cus /ˈloʊkəs/ *noun, pl* **lo•ci** /ˈloʊˌsaɪ/ [*count*] *formal* : a central or main place where something happens or is found ▪ The area became a *locus* of resistance to the government.

lo•cust /ˈloʊkəst/ *noun, pl* **-custs** [*count*] : a type of grasshopper that travels in very large groups and that can cause great destruction by eating crops ▪ a swarm of *locusts*

lo•cu•tion /loʊˈkjuːʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*] *technical* : a particular way of using words : a word or phrase ▪ We were taught to avoid certain *locutions* when speaking.

lode /ˈloʊd/ *noun, pl* **lodes** [*count*] : an amount of a mineral (such as gold or silver) that fills a crack or space in rock — often used figuratively ▪ In her books she mines the seemingly endless *lode* of her personal experiences. — see also MOTHER LODE

lode·star /ˈloʊdˌstɑɚ/ *noun, pl* **-stars** [*count*] *formal* : something or someone that leads or guides a person or group of people • The idea of public service has been a *lodestar* for her throughout her life.

lode·stone /ˈloʊdˌstoʊn/ *noun, pl* **-stones** [*count*] : a magnetic rock — sometimes used figuratively • The city is a *lodestone* [=*magnet*] for aspiring actors and actresses.

[1]lodge /ˈlɑːʤ/ *verb* **lodg·es**; **lodged**; **lodg·ing**

1 a [+ *obj*] : to provide (someone) with a place to stay for a short period of time • The workers were *lodged* in temporary camps. • The refugees needed to be *lodged* and fed. **b** [*no obj*] : to stay at a place for a short period of time • We *lodged* at the resort. — often + *with* • The guests *lodged with* their hosts overnight.

2 : to become stuck or fixed in a specified place or position [*no obj*] The bullet *lodged* in his brain. [+ *obj*] The bullet *lodged* itself in his brain. — often used as *(be) lodged* • The bullet *was lodged* in his brain. • A fish bone ***got/became lodged*** in her throat. — often used figuratively • a scene that *is lodged* in my memory [=a scene that I cannot forget]

3 [+ *obj*] : to present (something, such as a complaint) to someone so that it can be considered, dealt with, etc. : FILE • The group has *lodged* a grievance. — often + *against* • She *lodged* a complaint *against* her landlord in court. • He disputes the charges that have been *lodged against* him.

4 [+ *obj*] *chiefly Brit* : to place (something, such as money) *in* something or *with* someone so that it can be kept safe • The funds were *lodged in* an offshore account. • The funds were *lodged with* an offshore bank.

[2]lodge *noun, pl* **lodges** [*count*]

1 : a house or hotel in the country or mountains for people who are doing some outdoor activity • a hunting/ski *lodge*

2 : the place where a beaver lives • a beaver/beaver's *lodge*

3 a : a local group that is part of a larger organization • He's a member of a Masonic *lodge*. **b** : a meeting place for the members of such a group • an annual dinner at the *lodge*

4 a *chiefly Brit* : a small house used by a person who works on an estate • the gamekeeper's *lodge* **b** *Brit* : a shelter or room for the use of a worker (such as a gatekeeper, doorkeeper, or janitor) at a college • Ask for Professor Jones at the porter's *lodge*. **c** *Brit* : the official residence of the head of a college that is part of a British university and especially Cambridge University • the Master's *Lodge*

lodg·er /ˈlɑːʤɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a person who rents a room in another person's house

lodging *noun, pl* **-ings** : a place where a person (such as a traveler) can stay for usually a short period of time : a place to sleep [*noncount*] There is gas, food, and *lodging* at the next highway exit. • (*Brit*) He worked in the kitchen in return for ***board and lodging***. [=(*US*) *room and board*] [*count*] — usually plural • luxury *lodgings* • It can be difficult to find inexpensive *lodgings* in the city. • He found *lodgings* with a family near the university.

lodging house *noun, pl* ~ **houses** [*count*] *chiefly Brit, old-fashioned* : a house with rooms that can be rented : ROOMING HOUSE

[1]loft /ˈlɑːft/ *noun, pl* **lofts** [*count*]

1 : a room or space that is just below the roof of a building and that is often used to store things • The kids' bedroom has a *loft*.

2 : a high section of seats in a church or hall • the choir *loft*

3 *chiefly US* **a** : an upper floor of a warehouse or business building especially when it is not divided by walls **b** : an apartment made on the upper floor of a former warehouse or business building • He rents a converted *loft*.

4 : HAYLOFT

[2]loft *verb* **lofts**; **loft·ed**; **loft·ing** [+ *obj*] : to hit or throw (something, such as a ball) so that it rises high in the air • He *lofted* a home run into the stands. • The explosion *lofted* dust high into the air.

lofty /ˈlɑːfti/ *adj* **loft·i·er**; **-est** [*also more* ~; *most* ~]

1 *literary* : rising to a great height : very tall and impressive • *lofty* redwood trees • *lofty* buildings ***synonyms*** see [1]HIGH

2 : very high and good : deserving to be admired • He set *lofty* goals for himself as a teacher. • *lofty* ideals/standards

3 : showing the insulting attitude of people who think that they are better, smarter, or more important than other people • The professor spoke with a *lofty* [=*haughty*] air. • She showed a *lofty* disregard for their objections.

– loft·i·ly /ˈlɑːftəli/ *adv* • She *loftily* dismissed their objections. **– loft·i·ness** /ˈlɑːftinəs/ *noun* [*noncount*]

[1]log /ˈlɑːg/ *noun, pl* **logs** [*count*]

1 a : a long, heavy section of a tree that has fallen or been cut down • a *log cabin* [=a cabin made from logs] **b** : a thick piece of wood • Throw another *log* on the fire.

2 a : the record of travel by a ship or airplane • the captain's *log* • keep a *log* **b** : a record of performance, events, or activities • The mechanic kept a *log* showing when repairs were done on the truck. • a computer *log*

as easy as falling off a log see [1]EASY

sleep like a log see [1]SLEEP

– compare [3]LOG

[2]log *verb* **logs**; **logged**; **log·ging**

1 : to cut down trees in an area for wood [+ *obj*] Thousands of trees have been *logged* in this area. • The forest has been heavily *logged*. [*no obj*] The company has been *logging* in this area for many years.

2 [+ *obj*] : to make an official record of (something) • Part of his job is to *log* all deliveries. • *log* incoming phone calls

3 [+ *obj*] **a** : to do something for (a specified distance or time) • Truck drivers *log* thousands of miles every week. • She has only been flying for a few months, but she has already *logged* more than 80 hours. **b** *chiefly US* : to succeed in getting or achieving (something, such as a record of wins) • a pitcher who has *logged* more than a hundred victories

log off *or* ***log out*** [*phrasal verb*] *computers* : to end the connection of a computer to a network or system • Remember to *log off* when you're finished.

log on *or* ***log in*** [*phrasal verb*] *computers* : to start the connection of a computer to a network or system — often + *to* • *logged on to* the Internet • You need a password to *log in* (*to* the network).

[3]log *noun, pl* **logs** [*count*] : LOGARITHM — compare [1]LOG

lo·gan·ber·ry /ˈloʊgənˌberi, *Brit* ˈləʊgənbri/ *noun, pl* **-ries** [*count*] : a red berry that is sweet and juicy; *also* : the plant that loganberries grow on

log·a·rithm /ˈlɑːgəˌrɪðəm/ *noun, pl* **-rithms** [*count*] *mathematics* : a number that shows how many times a base number (such as ten) is multiplied by itself to produce a third number (such as 100)

– log·a·rith·mic /ˌlɑːgəˈrɪðmɪk/ *adj* **– log·a·rith·mi·cally** /ˌlɑːgəˈrɪðmɪkli/ *adv*

log·book /ˈlɑːgˌbʊk/ *noun, pl* **-books** [*count*] : a written record of activity, events, or travel : LOG • a pilot's *logbook*

log·ger /ˈlɑːgɚ/ *noun, pl* **-gers** [*count*] : someone whose job is to cut down trees for wood

log·ger·heads /ˈlɑːgɚˌhɛdz/ *noun*

at loggerheads : in a state of strong disagreement • The two nations are *at loggerheads* (with each other) over agricultural issues.

log·gia /ˈloʊʤijə/ *noun, pl* **-gias** [*count*] : an area on the side of a building that has a roof and that is open on one side

log·ic /ˈlɑːʤɪk/ *noun*

1 a : a proper or reasonable way of thinking about or understanding something [*noncount*] If you just use a little *logic*, you'll see I'm right. • the rules of *logic* • There's no *logic* in/to your reasoning. • I can't see the *logic* in always worrying about the future. = Where's the *logic* in always worrying about the future? • There's some *logic* to/in what he says. • She kept the dog, ***against all logic***, after it attacked her. [=her decision to keep the dog was not logical/sensible] • Her decision ***defies logic***. [=her decision makes no sense; her decision is not logical] [*singular*] There's a certain *logic* in/to what he says. **b** [*noncount*] : a particular way of thinking about something • I could not understand her *logic* in keeping the dog. [=I could not understand her reason for keeping the dog] • I fail to see your *logic*. = I fail to see the *logic* behind/of your reasoning. • faulty *logic*

2 [*noncount*] : the science that studies the formal processes used in thinking and reasoning • a professor of *logic* — see also FUZZY LOGIC

3 [*noncount*] : the way facts or events follow or relate to each other • The revolution proceeded according to its own *logic*. • the *logic* of the situation

4 [*noncount*] *technical* : the arrangement of circuits in a computer

log·i·cal /ˈlɑːʤɪkəl/ *adj*

1 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : agreeing with the rules of logic : sensible or reasonable • a *logical* argument/conclusion/decision • Since she helped us before, it's *logical* to assume that she'll help us again. • He seems to be a *logical* choice for the job. • She wasn't able to give me a *logical* explanation for her behavior. • a *logical* thinker

2 : of or relating to the formal processes used in thinking

and reasoning ▪ *logical* principles/argumentation
– **log·i·cal·ly** /ˈlɑːʤɪkli/ *adv* ▪ His argument doesn't proceed *logically*. ▪ He couldn't explain his decision *logically*. ▪ Since she helped us before, we can *logically* assume that she'll help us again.

lo·gi·cian /loʊˈʤɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-cians** [*count*] : someone who is skilled or trained in the formal processes used in thinking and reasoning

lo·gis·tics /loʊˈʤɪstɪks/ *noun* [*plural*] : the things that must be done to plan and organize a complicated activity or event that involves many people ▪ My mother was in charge of the *logistics* of our camping trip. ▪ *Logistics* are the key to a successful military campaign. ▪ the *logistics* of a political campaign — sometimes used with a singular verb ▪ *Logistics* is the key to a successful military campaign.
– **lo·gis·tic** /loʊˈʤɪstɪk/ *or* **lo·gis·ti·cal** /loʊˈʤɪstɪkəl/ *adj* ▪ The festival was a *logistical* nightmare. [=planning the details of the festival was extremely difficult]

log·jam /ˈlɑːgˌʤæm/ *noun, pl* **-jams** [*count*]
1 : a situation in which a large number of logs floating down a river become tangled with each other so that further movement is not possible
2 : a situation in which no progress seems possible ▪ He was called in to try to ***break the logjam*** in the negotiations.

logo /ˈloʊgoʊ/ *noun, pl* **log·os** [*count*] : a symbol that is used to identify a company and that appears on its products ▪ T-shirts with corporate *logos*

lo·gy /ˈloʊgi/ *adj* **lo·gi·er**; **-est** *US, informal* : not able to think or move normally because of being tired, sick, etc. ▪ feeling *logy* [=*groggy*]

-logy *noun combining form*
1 : area of knowledge : theory : science ▪ theo*logy* ▪ bio*logy* ▪ musico*logy* ▪ psycho*logy*
2 : speech or writing ▪ tri*logy*

loin /ˈlɔɪn/ *noun, pl* **loins**
1 a [*count*] : an area on the back of an animal's body near the tail ▪ a horse's *loins* **b** [*count, noncount*] : meat from this area ▪ pork *loin*
2 *loins* [*plural*] : the area of a person's body that includes the sexual organs ▪ There was a towel wrapped around his *loins*.
✧ Your child or children can be referred to as ***the fruit of your loins***. A child can be described as ***springing/coming from the loins*** of his or her parents. These phrases are usually used in a humorous way.
gird (up) your loins : to prepare yourself for a fight or for some difficult task ▪ The company is *girding its loins* for what could be a long strike.

loin·cloth /ˈlɔɪnˌklɑːθ/ *noun, pl* **-cloths** [*count*] : a piece of cloth worn to cover the sexual organs especially by men in very hot parts of the world

loi·ter /ˈlɔɪtɚ/ *verb* **-ters**; **-tered**; **-ter·ing** [*no obj*] : to remain in an area when you do not have a particular reason to be there ▪ *Loitering* is prohibited outside the theaters. ▪ There was a group of teenagers *loitering* (around) [=*hanging around*] in the parking lot.
– **loi·ter·er** /ˈlɔɪtɚɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

LOL *abbr* laugh(ing) out loud — used on the Internet, in e-mail, etc., to indicate that something is considered very funny

loll /ˈlɑːl/ *verb, always followed by an adverb or preposition* **lolls**; **lolled**; **loll·ing** [*no obj*]
1 : to hang or bend loosely ▪ a dog with its tongue *lolling* out ▪ Her head was *lolling* to one side.
2 : to lie or sit in a relaxed or lazy manner ▪ She was *lolling* by the pool. ▪ He *lolled* about/around in his pajamas all day.

lol·li·pop *or* **lol·ly·pop** /ˈlɑːliˌpɑːp/ *noun, pl* **-pops** [*count*] : a round piece of hard candy on the end of a stick

lol·ly /ˈlɑːli/ *noun, pl* **lol·lies**
1 [*count*] **a** *chiefly Brit* : LOLLIPOP **b** *Brit* : ICE LOLLY
2 [*noncount*] *Brit, old-fashioned slang* : MONEY

lol·ly·gag /ˈlɑːliˌgæg/ *verb* **-gags**; **-gagged**; **-gag·ging** [*no obj*] *US, informal* : to spend time doing things that are not useful or serious : to fool around and waste time ▪ He was kicked off the team for *lollygagging* during practice. ▪ Stop *lollygagging* around/about and get to work!
– **lol·ly·gag·ger** *noun, pl* **-gers** [*count*]

lo mein /ˈloʊˈmeɪn/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a combination of soft noodles, vegetables, and usually meat or shrimp that is served in Chinese restaurants in the U.S. — compare CHOW MEIN

lone /ˈloʊn/ *adj, always used before a noun*
1 : standing, acting, or being alone ▪ a *lone* traveler [=a traveler who is alone] ▪ a *lone* gunman ▪ He was the *lone* [=*only, sole*] official to vote against the plan. ▪ a *lone* [=*solitary*] tree on the hill — see also LONE WOLF
2 *Brit* : not having a partner (such as a husband or wife) ▪ a *lone* [=*single*] parent/father/mother

lone·ly /ˈloʊnli/ *adj* **lone·li·er**; **-est** [*also more ~; most ~*]
1 : sad from being apart from other people ▪ He was/felt *lonely* without his wife and children. ▪ a *lonely* old man ▪ feeling *lonely* ▪ She was a *lonely* child with few friends.
2 : causing sad feelings that come from being apart from other people ▪ It was *lonely* living out in the country. ▪ She spent too many *lonely* nights at home. ▪ She had a *lonely* childhood. ▪ It's ***lonely at the top***. [=powerful and successful people often have few friends]
3 : not visited by or traveled on by many people ▪ a *lonely* spot in the woods ▪ a *lonely* stretch of road
– **lone·li·ness** /ˈloʊnlinəs/ *noun* [*noncount*]

lonely hearts *adj, always used before a noun* : intended for lonely people who want to meet someone they can have a romantic or friendly relationship with ▪ a *lonely hearts* club ▪ the *lonely hearts* section of the newspaper

lon·er /ˈloʊnɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a person who is often alone or who likes to be alone ▪ The killer was a *loner* with no friends.

lone·some /ˈloʊnsəm/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *chiefly US*
1 : sad from being apart from other people : LONELY ▪ He was/felt *lonesome* for his family.
2 : causing sad feelings that come from being apart from other people : LONELY ▪ The empty house seemed so *lonesome*.
3 : not visited by or traveled on by many people : LONELY ▪ a *lonesome* highway ▪ the *lonesome* frontier
(all) by your lonesome *informal* : without anyone else : entirely alone ▪ He sat *by his lonesome* [=by himself] at the dinner table. ▪ She made the cake *all by her lonesome*.

lone wolf *noun, pl* **~ wolves** [*count*] : someone who likes to act, live, or work alone : LONER ▪ He had the reputation of being a *lone wolf* in high school.

[1]long /ˈlɑːŋ/ *adj* **lon·ger** /ˈlɑːŋgɚ/; **lon·gest** /ˈlɑːŋgəst/
1 a : extending a great distance from one end to the other end : not short ▪ *long* hair ▪ *long* legs ▪ a *long* corridor ▪ The bridge is the *longest* in the world. ▪ We drove a *long* distance. ▪ the *long/longer* side of the building ▪ The pants are a little (too) *long* for me. [=they should be shorter in order to fit me]
b : extending a specified distance : having a specified length ▪ one meter *long* ▪ The whale was 50 feet *long*. ▪ "***How long*** was the race?" "The race was five miles *long*."
2 a : lasting or continuing for a great amount of time ▪ a *long* pause/wait ▪ They've had a *long* and happy marriage. ▪ She finds it hard to sit still for *long* periods of time. ▪ It's a *long* movie. ▪ The company has a *long* tradition of serving its customers well. ▪ I've known them for ***a long time***. [=many years] ▪ I haven't seen them for/in *a* (very) *long time*. = (*US*) I haven't seen them ***for the longest time***. ▪ The changes took *a long time* to come. = The changes were ***long in coming***. [=the changes did not happen quickly] ▪ It happened ***a long time ago***. [=far in the past; not at all recently] ▪ The test should take an hour ***at the longest***. [=it should not be longer than an hour] ▪ She is used to working ***long hours***. [=she often works for many hours at a time] ▪ He has a very ***long memory***. [=he remembers things that happened far in the past] ▪ someone with ***long experience*** in the UN [=someone who has been in the UN many years] ▪ She gave him a ***long look***. [=she looked at him for many seconds] ▪ It's been a ***long day***. [=a difficult day in which time seems to go by slowly] ▪ We took Friday off and went to the coast for a ***long weekend***. [=a weekend with an extra day added to it] **b** : lasting or continuing for a specified amount of time ▪ The movie is three hours *long*. [=it lasts three hours] ▪ A day is 24 hours *long*. — see also DAY-LONG, MONTHLONG, WEEKLONG
3 a : having many pages, items, etc. ▪ a *long* book/essay/list ▪ The team has had a *long* streak of wins. **b** : having a specified number of pages, items, etc. ▪ The book is 300 pages *long*. ▪ The team's winning streak is 12 games *long*.
4 *of clothing* : covering all or most of the arms or legs ▪ a shirt with *long* sleeves ▪ *long* pants ▪ a *long* skirt
5 *sports* : going beyond the area of play ▪ His second serve was *long*, so he lost the point.
6 *linguistics, of a vowel* — used to identify certain vowel sounds in English ▪ *long* and short vowels ▪ the *long* "a" in "make" ▪ the *long* "e" in "sweet" ▪ the *long* "i" in "ice" ▪ the *long* "u" in "use" — compare [1]SHORT 8

7 *of someone's face* : showing sadness ▪ Why the ***long face***? [=you look sad; why are you sad?]

a long way : a great distance ▪ He grew up *a long way* from here. ▪ Their house is *a long way* (away) from here. — often used figuratively in various phrases ▪ We've done a lot of work, but we have ***a long way to go***. [=we still have a lot of work to do] ▪ These changes will ***go a long way toward/towards*** making the system more efficient. [=these changes will do a lot to make the system more efficient] ▪ The company has really ***come a long way*** [=the company has made a lot of progress] since/from its humble beginnings. ▪ These problems ***go back a long way***. [=these problems have existed for a long time] ▪ She and her business partner *go back a long way* (together). [=she and her business partner have known each other for a long time]

as long as someone's arm *informal* : very long : having many pages, items, etc. ▪ I had a list of things to do that was *as long as your/my arm*.

at long last see ⁵LAST

how long is a piece of string see ¹STRING

long in the tooth see TOOTH

long on : having or providing a good amount of (something) ▪ He was *long on* criticism [=he said many critical things] but short on useful advice.

long time no see *informal* — used as a greeting for someone you have not seen for a long time ▪ Well hello there! *Long time no see*!

not by a long chalk see ¹CHALK

not long for this world see ¹WORLD

take the long view see ¹VIEW

the long arm of the law see ¹ARM

²long *adv* longer; longest

1 : for or during a long time : for many years, days, hours, etc. ▪ The extra food she brought did not last *long*. ▪ Will he be away (very) *long*? ▪ They'll have to wait a bit *longer*. ▪ The mall has *long* been a popular hangout for teenagers. ▪ They have *long* been devoted friends. ▪ It's been so *long* since we've seen each other. ▪ It's been much ***too long*** since we've seen each other. ▪ That meeting was way *too long*. ▪ She's been away ***so long***. [=for such a long time] ▪ We had to leave ***long before*** we were ready to go. ▪ ***Long live*** the King/Queen! [=may the King/Queen live for many years] — sometimes used in combination ▪ her ***long-awaited*** new novel ▪ a ***long-anticipated*** announcement

2 : for a specified period of time ▪ The children played all day *long*. [=throughout the day] ▪ We talked all night *long*. ▪ all summer/week *long*

3 : at a time far before or after a specified moment or event ▪ events that occurred ***long before*** the discovery of America ▪ He remembered that day ***long after*** it had faded from her memory. ▪ The book wasn't published until *long after* she had died. ▪ He went to bed at 10 o'clock. Not *long after/afterward*, the phone rang.

4 : for a great distance ▪ The quarterback threw the ball *long*.

as long as *or* ***so long as*** **1** : SINCE ▪ *As long as* I'm here, we may as well begin. ▪ *As long as* you're up, would you mind getting me a drink? ▪ *So long as* you feel that way I'll leave. **2** : IF ▪ I'll go with you *as long as* you'll drive. ▪ They can do anything they want, *so long as* they follow the rules. ▪ *As long as* she's allowed to go first, she's happy. **3** : during the time that : WHILE ▪ The economy will remain strong *as long as* there are jobs to go around.

be long — used to ask how much time will be required or to say that something will take only a short amount of time or will happen soon ▪ "Will you *be long*?" "No, I'll be ready soon." ▪ I'm going out now, but I ***won't be long***. [=I will return soon] ▪ "Have you finished yet?" "No, but I *won't be long*." [=I will finish soon] ▪ "Will you ***be much longer***?" "No, I'm almost ready." ▪ We've been waiting since morning, but ***it won't be long now***. [=what we have been waiting for will happen/come soon] ▪ It ***can't be much longer*** before they give up. [=they will probably give up soon]

long ago : at a time in the distant past ▪ events that happened *long ago* ▪ The announcement was made ***not long ago***. [=the announcement was made recently] ▪ It wasn't so/very *long ago* that this place was empty field.

long gone : having ended, died, disappeared, etc., at a distant time in the past ▪ Those buildings are *long gone* now.

long since : at a time in the distant past : long ago ▪ questions that have *long since* been answered [=questions that were answered long ago] ▪ an animal that has *long since* disappeared from this region ▪ I *long since* gave up trying to change her mind.

no longer *or* ***not any longer*** — used to say that something that was once true or possible is not now true or possible ▪ They could wait *no longer*. = They couldn't wait *any longer*. [=it was not possible for them to continue waiting] ▪ I can *no longer* afford the car. [=I could afford the car at some time in the past but I cannot afford it now]

so long *informal* : ¹GOODBYE ▪ *So long* (for now)! Have a safe journey home! ▪ She said *so long* to her friends and family and headed off to college. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ the time of year when we say *so long* to winter coats [=when we stop wearing winter coats]

take long : to require a large amount of time ▪ It won't *take long* to make dinner. ▪ This is *taking longer* than I thought (it would).

³long *noun*

before long : in a short amount of time : SOON ▪ They said they would be finished *before long*. ▪ *Before long* the light rain had turned into a heavy downpour. ▪ We expect them to arrive *before long*. [=*before much longer*]

for long : for many years, days, hours, etc. : for a long time ▪ I haven't known him *for long*. ▪ Her life did not remain peaceful *for long*. ▪ He won't be away *for* (very) *long*. [=*for* (very) *much longer*] ▪ He didn't work here *for long*. ▪ She's been away ***for so long***. [=*for such a long time*]

the long and (the) short of it — used when making a statement that is brief and that tells someone only the most important parts of something ▪ I could give you a lot of reasons for my decision, but *the long and short of it* is that I just don't want to go.

⁴long *verb* longs; longed; long•ing [*no obj*]

: to feel a strong desire or wish *for* something or *to do* something ▪ We all *long for* peace. = We all *long to live* in peace. ▪ I'm *longing for* the time when I will see you again. = I'm *longing to see* you again. = How I *long to see* you again! ▪ He began to feel that the ***longed-for*** day of her return would never come.

synonyms see YEARN

long. *abbr* longitude

long ball *noun, pl* ~ **balls** [*count*] *baseball* : HOME RUN ▪ a pitcher who has given up a lot of *long balls* ▪ a batter known for hitting the *long ball* [=for hitting many home runs]

long•bow /ˈlɑːŋˌboʊ/ *noun, pl* **-bows** [*count*] : a large wooden weapon (called a bow) that shot arrows and was used for hunting and fighting in the past

long–dis•tance /ˈlɑːŋˈdɪstəns/ *adj*

1 *always used before a noun* **a** : going or covering a great distance ▪ *long-distance* trade routes ▪ *long-distance* travel ▪ *long-distance* roads ▪ a *long-distance* runner **b** : involving people who are far apart ▪ The two carried on a *long-distance* courtship/relationship/romance.

2 *of a telephone call* : connecting to a place that is far away ▪ She made several *long-distance* (phone/telephone) calls. ▪ Is this call *long-distance*? — opposite LOCAL

– **long–distance** *adv* ▪ She called her parents *long-distance*. [=she made a long-distance call to her parents]

– **long distance** *noun* [*noncount*] *chiefly US* ▪ You have to pay more for *long distance*. [=to make long-distance telephone calls]

long division *noun* [*noncount*] *mathematics* : a way of dividing one number by another number that involves several steps which are written out ▪ students learning to do *long division*

long–drawn–out *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : continuing for a long time or for too long ▪ a *long-drawn-out* investigation ▪ The two sides have been engaged in *long-drawn-out* [=*protracted*] discussions.

lon•gev•i•ty /lɑnˈʤɛvəti/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 a : long life : the fact of living for many years ▪ His *longevity* was remarkable considering he had been so sick when he was a child. ▪ The members of that family are famous for their *longevity*. [=for living to be very old] **b** : length of life ▪ Better medical treatment has led to greater *longevity*. ▪ a study of human *longevity*

2 : the length of time that something or someone lasts or continues ▪ The *longevity* of a car's tires depends on how the car is driven. ▪ She's a talented athlete, but many people have doubts about her *longevity*. [=about how long her athletic career will last] ▪ They're trying to increase the product's *longevity*.

long green *noun* [*noncount*] *US, old-fashioned slang* : MONEY ▪ was able to rustle up some *long green* in a hurry — often used with *the* ▪ The band was raking in *the long green*.

long•hair /ˈlɑːŋˌheɚ/ *noun, pl* **-hairs** [*count*]
1 *chiefly US, old-fashioned* : a person (such as a hippie) who has long hair ▪ *Longhairs* crowded into the music festival.
2 : a cat that has long fur — compare SHORTHAIR
– **longhair** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ *longhair* cats

long–haired /ˈlɑːŋˈheɚd/ *adj* : having long fur or hair ▪ *long-haired* cats ▪ a beautiful *long-haired* girl

long•hand /ˈlɑːŋˌhænd/ *noun* [*noncount*] : writing that is done by using a pen or pencil rather than with a typewriter or computer ▪ children learning (to do) *longhand* ▪ She wrote the book in *longhand*. — compare SHORTHAND

long haul *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : a long journey or distance ▪ Driving across the country would be a *long haul*.
2 *chiefly US* : a long period of time — usually used in the phrases ***for the long haul*** and ***over the long haul*** ▪ It's going to be a tough project but we're in it *for the long haul*. [=we are prepared to work on the project until it is completed] ▪ Will the company be able to succeed *over the long haul*?
– **long–haul** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ a *long-haul* flight

long•horn /ˈlɑːŋˌhoɚn/ *noun, pl* **-horns** [*count*] : a type of cow that has long horns ▪ a herd of *longhorns* ▪ a Texas *longhorn* — often used before another noun ▪ a *longhorn* bull/steer ▪ *longhorn* cattle

[1]long•ing /ˈlɑːŋɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-ings** : a strong desire for something or someone [*noncount*] They looked with *longing* toward freedom. ▪ She cast a look of *longing* at the shop window. [*count*] She never told anyone about her secret *longings*. — often + *for* ▪ They were filled with a deep *longing for* peace. ▪ He had/felt a *longing for* her. — often followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ The refugees felt a deep *longing to return* home. ▪ He had a *longing to be* with her.

[2]longing *adj, always used before a noun* : showing a strong desire for something or someone ▪ She looked at the shop window with a *longing* gaze.
– **long•ing•ly** /ˈlɑːŋɪŋli/ *adv* ▪ She gazed/looked *longingly* at the shop window.

long•ish /ˈlɑːŋɪʃ/ *adj* : somewhat long ▪ She wore a *longish* coat/skirt. ▪ He had *longish* black hair.

lon•gi•tude /ˈlɑːnʤəˌtuːd, *Brit* ˈlɒnʤəˌtjuːd/ *noun, pl* **-tudes**
1 : distance measured in degrees east or west from an imaginary line (called the prime meridian) that goes from the North Pole to the South Pole and that passes through Greenwich, England [*noncount*] a map of the world showing lines of latitude and *longitude* [*count*] calculating the *longitudes* of different places — compare LATITUDE 1a
2 [*count*] : an imaginary line that circles the Earth at a particular longitude ▪ The regions are on roughly the same *longitude*. — compare LATITUDE 1b

lon•gi•tu•di•nal /ˌlɑːnʤəˈtuːdənəl, *Brit* ˌlɒnʤəˈtjuːdənəl/ *adj, always used before a noun*
1 : placed or going along the long side of something ▪ The insect's body is black with yellow *longitudinal* stripes.
2 : of or relating to longitude ▪ calculating the *longitudinal* position of a ship
3 : done by observing or examining a group of people or things over time to study how one or two particular things about them change ▪ a *longitudinal* study of career aspirations among girls from 5 to 17
– **lon•gi•tu•di•nal•ly** *adv*

long johns /ˈlɑːŋˌʤɑːnz/ *noun* [*plural*] : underwear that covers your legs and that is worn in cold weather — called also (*US*) *long underwear*; see color picture on page C12

long jump *noun*
the long jump : an athletic event in which people compete by trying to jump as far as they can ▪ He won a gold medal in *the long jump*. — sometimes used before another noun ▪ a *long jump* competition ▪ She set a *long jump* record at the meet. — called also (*US*) *the broad jump*
– **long jumper** *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*]

long–last•ing /ˈlɑːŋˈlæstɪŋ, *Brit* ˈlɒŋˈlɑːstɪŋ/ *adj* **long•er–last•ing; long•est–last•ing** [*or more* ~; *most* ~] : existing or continuing for a long time ▪ a book that has *long-lasting* [=*lasting, enduring*] significance ▪ The trip had a *long-lasting* effect on me.

long–life *adj, always used before a noun*
1 : made to last a long time ▪ *long-life* batteries
2 *Brit* : having a substance added that allows something to remain fresh or good for a long time ▪ *long-life* milk

long–lived /ˈlɑːŋˈlɪvd/ *adj* **long•er–lived; long•est–lived** [*or more* ~; *most* ~] : living or lasting for a long time ▪ a *long-lived* woman, still vigorous in her 80s ▪ The members of that family were all *long-lived*. ▪ The redwood is a *long-lived* tree. ▪ That fad was relatively/remarkably *long-lived*. — compare SHORT-LIVED

long–lost /ˈlɑːŋˈlɑːst/ *adj, always used before a noun* : lost a long time ago : not seen or found for many years ▪ a *long-lost* masterpiece that has recently been rediscovered ▪ He embraced his old friend like a *long-lost* brother.

long–play•ing record /ˈlɑːŋˈplejɪŋ-/ *noun, pl* ~ **-cords** [*count*] : LP

long–range /ˈlɑːŋˈreɪnʤ/ *adj, always used before a noun*
1 : able to travel or be used over great distances ▪ *long-range* bombers/missiles/rockets/weapons ▪ a *long-range* radio
2 : involving a long period of time ▪ *long-range* planning ▪ *long-range* [=*long-term*] goals/trends ▪ a *long-range* forecast

long run *noun*
the long run : a long period of time after the beginning of something ▪ Invest for *the long run* [=*the long term*], not to see what you can earn in a few months. ▪ Your solution may cause more problems ***over the long run***. — usually used in the phrase ***in the long run*** ▪ It may be our best option *in the long run*. [=when a greater amount of time has passed] ▪ This deal will cost you more *in the long run*. [=*in the long term*] — compare SHORT RUN
– **long–run** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ *long-run* benefits [=benefits that will exist or continue over a long period of time]

long•shore•man /ˈlɑːŋˌʃoɚmən/ *noun, pl* **-men** /-mən/ [*count*] *US* : a person whose job is to load and unload ships at a port — called also *stevedore*, (*US*) *dockworker*, (*Brit*) *docker*

long shot *noun, pl* ~ **shots** [*count*]
1 : an attempt or effort that is not likely to be successful ▪ I hope to double my profits, but I know that's a *long shot*.
2 *chiefly US* : a person or thing that is not likely to win something (such as a contest or race) ▪ The horse was a *long shot*, but we bet on him anyway. ▪ She always bets on *long shots* at the racetrack. ▪ a political *long shot*
by a long shot : by a great extent or degree : by far ▪ It was the biggest problem we had—*by a long shot*.
not by a long shot : not at all ▪ Our work isn't done yet, *not by a long shot*. [=we still have a lot more work to do]

long–sight•ed /ˈlɑːŋˌsaɪtəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *Brit*
1 : FARSIGHTED 1 ▪ He needs reading glasses because he is *long-sighted*.
2 : FARSIGHTED 2 ▪ *long-sighted* planning for the future
– **long–sight•ed•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

long–stand•ing /ˈlɑːŋˈstændɪŋ/ *adj* : lasting or existing for a long time ▪ It was a *long-standing* tradition for them to camp in the mountains for a week during the summer. ▪ Some *long-standing* problems are finally being corrected. ▪ their *long-standing* relationship

long–suf•fer•ing /ˈlɑːŋˌsʌfərɪŋ/ *adj* : suffering for a long time without complaining : very patient during difficult times ▪ his forgiving and *long-suffering* wife ▪ When the Red Sox won the World Series, their *long-suffering* fans could finally celebrate.

long suit *noun* [*singular*] : something that a person does well : STRONG SUIT ▪ Patience is not her *long suit*. [=she is not a patient person]

long term *noun*
the long term : a long period of time after the beginning of something ▪ She is investing for *the long term*. [=*the long run*] ▪ I think it's the better choice ***over the long term***. — usually used in the phrase ***in the long term*** ▪ an investment that should do well *in the long term* [=when a greater amount of time has passed] ▪ These changes may improve profits now, but they are going to cost us money *in the long term*. [=*in the long run*] — compare SHORT TERM

long–term /ˈlɑːŋˈtɚm/ *adj* : lasting for, relating to, or involving a long period of time ▪ The *long-term* effects of the medication are not known. ▪ The company has a *long-term* plan/strategy for success. ▪ His *long-term* memory is still okay, but his short-term memory is failing. [=he is still able to remember things that happened long ago but it is difficult for him to remember things that happened recently] ▪ *long-term* care for the elderly ▪ a *long-term* investment

long•time /ˈlɑːŋˈtaɪm/ *adj, always used before a noun* : having been something specified for many years ▪ the *longtime* chairman of the committee ▪ *longtime* residents of the neighborhood ▪ her *longtime* boyfriend/editor/manager/partner ▪ *longtime* rivals

lon·gueur /lɑŋ'gə/ *noun, pl* **-gueurs** [*count*] *literary* : a boring part of something (such as a book or play) — usually plural ▪ Though not without its *longueurs*, the opera came to life in the last act.

long underwear *noun* [*noncount*] *US* : LONG JOHNS

long–wind·ed /ˌlɑːŋ'wɪndəd/ *adj* : using too many words in speaking or writing ▪ The teacher was known for his *long-winded* explanations. ▪ a *long-winded* sermon/speech ▪ a *long-winded* speaker
– **long–wind·ed·ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

loo /'luː/ *noun, pl* **loos** [*count*] *Brit, informal* : TOILET

loo·fah /'luːfə/ *noun, pl* **-fahs** [*count*] : a rough sponge that is made from the dried fruit of a tropical plant and that people use to wash their bodies

¹look /'lʊk/ *verb* **looks; looked; look·ing**

1 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* [*no obj*] : to direct your eyes in a particular direction ▪ He *looked* straight ahead and kept walking. ▪ When you take a walk, *look* around you. ▪ She smiled at me and then *looked* away. ▪ He *looked* back the way he had come. ▪ *Look* both ways before you cross the street. ▪ When I finally reached the top I was afraid to *look* down. ▪ She *looked* from one person to the next. ▪ *Look* in the mirror/box. ▪ They *looked* off into the distance. ▪ He was *looking* over his shoulder. — often + *at* ▪ She *looked* longingly *at* the photograph. ▪ "What are you *looking at*?" "I'm *looking at* this flower." ▪ *looking at* the stars through a telescope = *looking* through a telescope *at* the stars — see also LOOK AROUND (below), LOOK AT (below), *look over your shoulder* at ¹SHOULDER

2 a [*linking verb*] : to seem to be something especially because of appearance ▪ He *looks* angry. ▪ Her new haircut makes her *look* young/younger. ▪ That cake *looks* delicious. ▪ "How does the situation *look* (to you) now?" "It *looks* pretty bad/good." ▪ It *looks* dangerous/unlikely. ▪ a kind-*looking* woman = a woman who *looks* kind ▪ The child ***looked to be*** about seven years old. ▪ The once-famous star *looks to be* heading into obscurity. ▪ The year ahead *looks to be* a profitable one. [=it appears likely to be profitable; I/we expect it to be profitable] — often used in the phrases ***look as if***, ***look as though***, and ***look like*** ▪ It *looks like* it will be hard work. ▪ It *looks like* it will rain/snow. = It *looks like* rain/snow. ▪ It *looks* to me *like* they're all the same. = It *looks like* they're all the same to me. = They *look like* they're all the same to me. ▪ It *looked as though* he was feeling ill. = He *looked as though* he was feeling ill. ▪ It *looks like* she's going to win the tournament again this year. = She *looks like* she's going to win the tournament again this year. = (*Brit*) She *looks like* winning the tournament again this year. [=she seems likely to win the tournament again this year] ▪ He *looks like* a nice man. = (*Brit*) He *looks* a nice man. [=he seems/appears to be a nice man] — see also LOOK LIKE (below) **b** [+ *obj*] : to have an appearance that is suitable for (something) ▪ She *looks* her age. [=her appearance shows her age] ▪ an actor who really *looks* the part [=whose appearance matches the appearance the character is supposed to have]

3 [*no obj*] : to try to find something or someone ▪ "I don't know where my keys are." "Try *looking* in the drawer." ▪ I've ***looked high and low***. = I've ***looked everywhere***. = I've ***looked all over***. ▪ "I still haven't found my keys." "Well, ***keep looking***." ▪ "I'm still trying to find my keys." "Well, ***look no further***—here they are." — see also LOOK FOR (below)

4 [*no obj*] : to pay attention by directing your eyes at something ▪ You can see many wonderful things in nature if you take the time to stop and *look*. ▪ The store clerk asked if I needed any help, but I told him I was ***just looking***. [=I was looking at the things being sold in the store but did not plan to buy anything specific]

5 [*no obj*] **a** — used to direct someone's attention to something or someone ▪ *Look*! Over there! Is that a hawk? ▪ *Look*! There he is! — often + *at* ▪ *Look at* those mountains. Have you ever seen anything so beautiful? ▪ Just ***look at the time***! I had no idea it was that late! — often used in phrases like ***look where***, ***look what***, etc. ▪ *Look what* I found. ▪ *Look who's* here. ▪ *Look how* easy it is to do this. **b** — used in phrases like ***look where***, ***look what***, etc., to warn someone or to express anger or disappointment ▪ *Look where* you're going. You almost walked into that pole. ▪ *Look what* you did! You broke it. ▪ Now *look what* you've done. It's broken. **c** — used to introduce a statement when you want someone to notice what you are saying ▪ *Look*, this just isn't going to work. ▪ ***Look here***, you need to start behaving more responsibly.

6 [+ *obj*] **a** : to want or try to do something — followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ a company *looking to become* a leader in the industry ▪ We're *looking to create* something new. **b** : to expect something — followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ We *look to have* a good year. = We are *looking to have* a good year.

7 [*no obj*] : to have a specified direction : to point or face in a specified direction ▪ The house *looks* east. ▪ The hotel *looks* toward the sea.

don't look now — used in speech before a statement to tell someone to be aware of something without looking ▪ *Don't look now*, but they're coming our way. ▪ *Don't look now*, but I think we're being followed.

look after [*phrasal verb*] ***look after (someone or something)*** : to take care of (someone or something) ▪ They hired a babysitter to *look after* the children. ▪ I can *look after* myself. ▪ He *looks after* his aging parents. ▪ They asked a friend to *look after* their house while they were away.

look a gift horse in the mouth see ¹HORSE

look ahead [*phrasal verb*] : to think about what will happen in the future ▪ The past year has been successful and, *looking ahead*, we expect to do even better in the coming months. — often + *to* ▪ *Looking ahead to* next year, we expect to be even more successful.

look around *or Brit* ***look round*** [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***look around/round*** *or* ***look around/round (a place)*** : to go through a place in order to see what is there : to explore a place ▪ We arrived early at the theater and spent a few minutes *looking around*. ▪ The kids *looked around* the shops while we unpacked. **2** ***look around/round for (something)*** : to search for (something) ▪ I *looked around for* my keys but I couldn't find them anywhere. ▪ He is *looking around for* a new car. — see also ¹LOOK 1 (above)

look at [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***look at (someone or something)*** **a** : to think about or consider (something or someone) ▪ Just *look at* how successful she's been. ▪ The company is *looking at* the possibility of moving to a larger office. ▪ I just haven't *looked at* him as (being) a potential roommate. ▪ The way I *look at* [=*see*] it, you're wrong. ▪ Some people are *looking at* her as a possible candidate for mayor. ▪ You can make changes in your life. Just *look at* Tim. [=consider that Tim has made changes to realize that you can also make changes] **b** : to examine or study (someone or something) ▪ You should have a doctor *look at* that bruise. ▪ I had the veterinarian *look at* my cat. **2** ***look at (something)*** **a** : to have (something bad or unpleasant) as a problem or possibility ▪ If you're found guilty, you could be *looking at* [=*facing*] five years in prison. **b** : to read (something or part of something) ▪ I haven't *looked at* [=*read*] the newspaper today. ▪ Did you *look at* that fax yet? — see also ¹LOOK 1, 5a (above)

look back [*phrasal verb*] : to think about something in the past ▪ *Looking back* to/at last season, I can see why they didn't win the pennant. ▪ I *look back* at/on that time with a lot of pride. [=I feel proud when I think about that time] ✧ If you make an important change in your life and ***never look back***, you never return to the way you had been before, and your life is very different from that time onward. ▪ After college, she moved to New York, got a job on Wall Street, and *never looked back*.

look before you leap : to think or learn about the possible bad results of an action before doing it ▪ If you're planning to invest in your friend's company, I advise you to *look before you leap*.

look daggers at see DAGGER

look down on [*phrasal verb*] ***look down on (someone or something)*** : to think of or treat (someone or something) as unimportant or not worthy of respect ▪ The family was *looked down on* for being different. ▪ The other children *looked down on* me because my parents were poor.

look down your nose at : to think of or treat (someone or something) as unimportant or not worthy of respect ▪ She *looked down her nose at* her neighbors. ▪ writers who *look down their noses at* popular culture

look for [*phrasal verb*] ***look for (something or someone)*** **1** : to try to find (someone or something) : to search for (someone or something) ▪ We had to wait while he *looked for* his keys. ▪ I've *looked* everywhere *for* my keys but I still can't find them. ▪ She's *looking for* a new job. ▪ *look for* a word in the dictionary ▪ The police continue to *look for* the escaped prisoners. ▪ His taste is—what's the word I'm *looking for*?—I know, "eclectic." — see also ¹LOOK 3 (above) **2** : to expect (something or someone) ▪ We're *looking for* better days in the future. ▪ Don't bother *looking for* me anytime too soon. — often followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ You can

look for me *to arrive* around noon. ▪ Economists are *looking for* the economy *to improve* in the next few months. **3 *look for trouble*** *informal* : to act in a way that could cause violence or problems ▪ I could tell that he was *looking for trouble* as soon as he came in.

look forward to [*phrasal verb*] ***look forward to (something)*** : to expect (something) with pleasure ▪ They're *looking forward to* their vacation. ▪ He felt he had nothing to *look forward to* in his life. ▪ She's *looking forward to* meeting new friends.

look in on [*phrasal verb*] ***look in on (someone)*** : to make a brief social visit to (someone) ▪ I plan to *look in on* [=*drop in on, call on*] some old friends when I'm in town.

look into [*phrasal verb*] ***look into (something)*** : to try to get information about (something) ▪ Is there a problem? I could *look into* it. ▪ Investigators are *looking into* the cause of the accident.

look like : to have an appearance that is very similar to (someone or something) : to resemble (someone or something) ▪ You *look* just *like* your mother! [=you resemble your mother very closely] ▪ That powdered sugar *looks like* snow. — see also ¹LOOK 2a (above)

look like a million dollars/bucks see MILLION

look lively see LIVELY

look on/upon [*phrasal verb*] **1 *look on*** : to watch something as it happens without becoming involved ▪ A crowd of people *looked on* [=*stood by*] helplessly as the house burned to the ground. **2 *look on/upon (someone or something)*** : to think of or consider (someone or something) in a specified way — + *as* or *with* ▪ I've always *looked on* her *as* a friend. [=considered her to be a friend] ▪ They *looked on* reading *as* an escape from the troubles of life. ▪ He *looked upon* his son's accomplishments *with* pride.

look out [*phrasal verb*] **1** — used to tell someone to be aware of something dangerous ▪ *Look out* [=*watch out*]—one of the steps is missing! **2 *look (something) out*** *or* ***look out (something)*** *Brit* : to succeed in finding (something) ▪ It may take me a while to *look out* [=*hunt down*] his phone number for you.

look out for [*phrasal verb*] **1 *look out for (something)*** : to be aware of and try to avoid (something dangerous or unwanted) ▪ In the winter, drivers need to *look out for* icy patches on the roads. ▪ In buying a home, there are many potential problems (that) you should *look out for*. ▪ *Look out for* [=*watch out for*] that pothole! **2 *look out for (someone or something)*** : to take care of or protect (someone or something) ▪ I can *look out for* myself. ▪ She is supposed to be *looking out for* our interests. ✧ If you ***look out for number one***, you only think about yourself and do what helps you most. ▪ We don't want a senator who's (only/always) *looking out for number one*.

look over [*phrasal verb*] ***look (something) over*** *or* ***look over (something)*** : to read or examine (something) usually in a quick or hurried way ▪ She *looked over* the plans on her way out of the office. ▪ He *looked over* his shopping list as he entered the store. ▪ *look* a proposal *over*

look sharp see ²SHARP

look (someone) in the eye *also* ***look (someone) in the face*** : to look directly at (someone who is also looking at you) ▪ I wasn't afraid to *look him* (right) *in the eye* and tell him just what I thought of him!

look the other way : to ignore something that should be noticed or dealt with : to turn your attention away from something ▪ We can't just *look the other way* while these violations of basic human rights continue to occur. ▪ Residents of the neighborhood accuse police of *looking the other way* as drug dealers become more active there.

look through [*phrasal verb*] **1 *look through (something)* a** : to read or briefly examine some of the pages of (a book, magazine, etc.) ▪ She was *looking* [=*leafing*] *through* a magazine as she waited in the doctor's office. ▪ *look through* the pages of a magazine **b** : to look at the different parts of (a collection or group of things) ▪ I *looked through* [=*went through*] all his letters. **2 *look through (someone)*** : to pretend not to see or recognize (someone) in a rude or unfriendly way ▪ We used to be best friends but when she passed me on the street yesterday *she looked* (right/straight) *through me* without even saying hello!

look to [*phrasal verb*] **1 *look to (something)*** : to think about or examine (something) : to direct your attention to (something) ▪ They *look to* the future with ever-increasing hope. — usually + *for* ▪ We can *look to* the past *for* help in figuring out how to deal with this problem. ▪ *look to* nature *for* inspiration **2 *look to (someone)*** : to need (someone) to do something for or give something to you : to depend or rely on (someone) ▪ They *look to* me to fix the problem. ▪ Many parents *look to* their children to help them navigate the Internet. — often + *for* ▪ Many parents *look to* their children *for* help in navigating the Internet. ▪ She *looked to* her friends *for* help. ▪ They *look to* you *for* advice.

look up [*phrasal verb*] **1** : to get better : IMPROVE ▪ The economy is *looking up*. ▪ Things started to *look up* for me when I got the promotion. **2 *look (something) up*** *or* ***look up (something)*** : to search for (something) in a reference book, on the Internet, etc. ▪ If you don't know what a word means, you should *look* it *up* (in the dictionary). ▪ *look up* a telephone number ▪ *look up* an article in the encyclopedia **3 *look (someone) up*** *or* ***look up (someone)*** : to call or go to see (someone) when you are in the area where that person lives ▪ I told them to *look* me *up* if they came to town.

look up to [*phrasal verb*] ***look up to (someone)*** : to respect and admire (someone) ▪ I've always *looked up to* my older brother. ▪ The kids really *look up to* their coach.

Look what the cat dragged in! see CAT

look your best see ³BEST

not much to look at *informal* : not physically attractive ▪ The restaurant *isn't much to look at*, but the food is good. ▪ The dog is*n't much to look at*, but he's a great hunting dog.

²look *noun, pl* looks

1 [*count*] : the act of looking at something — usually singular ▪ A quick *look* inside someone's refrigerator can tell you a lot about that person. ▪ Come on inside. ***Take a look*** around. ▪ She went inside the building to ***have a look*** around. ▪ I wanted to ***get a look*** inside the car's engine. — often + *at* ▪ Just *take/have a look at* this! ▪ It's our first chance to *get a look at* the new library. ▪ The witness wasn't able to describe the killer because she didn't ***get a good look at*** him. [=she didn't see him clearly] ▪ We ***took one look at*** the weather and decided to stay home. [=when we saw how bad the weather was we immediately decided to stay home]

2 [*count*] : the act of examining or considering something — usually singular ▪ movies that are worth a *look* [=movies that you should consider seeing because they are good, entertaining, etc.] — usually + *at* ▪ The report takes a close/revealing/hard *look at* the public school system. ▪ We need to take a closer *look at* these issues.

3 [*singular*] : the act of trying to find something or someone ▪ I don't think you left it here, but I'll take a *look* around for it. ▪ I took a quick *look*, but he wasn't there.

4 [*count*] : the emotions and feelings that can be seen in a person's face or eyes ▪ You should have seen the *look* [=*expression*] on her face! ▪ I'll never forget the *look* in her eyes. ▪ a *look* of jealousy/pride/remorse ▪ He gave me an angry/dirty *look*. ▪ They exchanged *looks* of love. [=they looked at each other lovingly] ▪ I've never seen her so angry. ***If looks could kill***, I'd be dead right now.

5 a [*count*] : a quality or characteristic that you can see when you look at something : the way that something looks ▪ The painting has an old-fashioned *look* to it. ▪ The building had the *look* [=*appearance*] of a fortress. ▪ a fabric that has the *look* of leather [=a fabric that has the same appearance as leather] ▪ Judging by/from the *look* of those clouds, we're going to get some rain. ▪ I ***don't like the look of*** those clouds. [=I don't like the way those clouds look; those clouds make me think that there will be a storm, it will rain or snow, etc.] ▪ The restaurant doesn't look very appealing, but ***looks can be deceiving/deceptive***. [=something can be very different from how it seems or appears to be] ▪ ***From the look of things***, that car won't last much longer. [=that car seems unlikely to last much longer] **b *looks*** [*plural*] : physical appearance ▪ Everyone says he's handsome, but I wasn't impressed by his *looks*.; *especially* : attractive physical appearance ▪ She's very pretty, but she's not going to get by just on her *looks*. ▪ He had boyish ***good looks***. ▪ She's worried about ***losing her looks*** [=becoming less attractive] as she grows older. **c** [*count*] : a style or fashion — usually singular ▪ a new *look* in women's fashion ▪ They wanted the right *look* for the company's new logo.

look–alike /ˈlʊkəˌlaɪk/ *noun, pl* **-alikes** [*count*] : someone or something that looks like another person or thing ▪ She and her cousin are *look-alikes*. [=they look like each other; they look very similar] ▪ a young actor who is a John Wayne *look-alike* [=a young actor who looks like John Wayne]

– look–alike *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ two *look-alike* cousins

look•er /ˈlʊkɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *informal* : a person (es-

pecially a woman) who is very attractive ▪ His girlfriend's a real *looker*.

look•er–on /ˌlʊkəˈɑːn/ *noun, pl* **look•ers–on** [*count*] : a person who watches something ▪ The accident attracted a small group of *lookers-on*. [=(more commonly) *onlookers*]

look–in /ˈlʊkˌɪn/ *noun* [*singular*] *Brit* : a chance to succeed or be involved in something ▪ She wanted to apply for the job, but they never let her ***get/have a look-in***.

looking glass *noun, pl* ~ **glasses** [*count*] *old-fashioned* : [1]MIRROR 1

look•out /ˈlʊkˌaʊt/ *noun, pl* **-outs** [*count*]

1 : a person who watches an area and warns others if there is danger ▪ The troops posted a *lookout* for the night.

2 : a high place or structure from which you can see a wide area ▪ The mountain road had several *lookouts* where you could enjoy the view. ▪ a *lookout* tower

be someone's lookout *Brit, informal* — used to say that someone who makes a bad decision or does something foolish is responsible for the result and will have to deal with it alone ▪ If he wants to spend all his money on expensive clothes, that's *his lookout*.

keep a lookout for : to watch for (something or someone) ▪ The police officer walked through the neighborhood, *keeping a* (sharp) *lookout for* any suspicious activity.

on the lookout for : looking or searching for (something or someone) ▪ An avid shopper, she was always *on the lookout for* sales. ▪ The police are *on the lookout for* two men who escaped from custody yesterday.

look–see /ˈlʊkˈsiː/ *noun* [*singular*] *chiefly US, informal* : a quick act of looking at or examining something ▪ They heard the house was for sale, so they drove over to have a *look-see*.

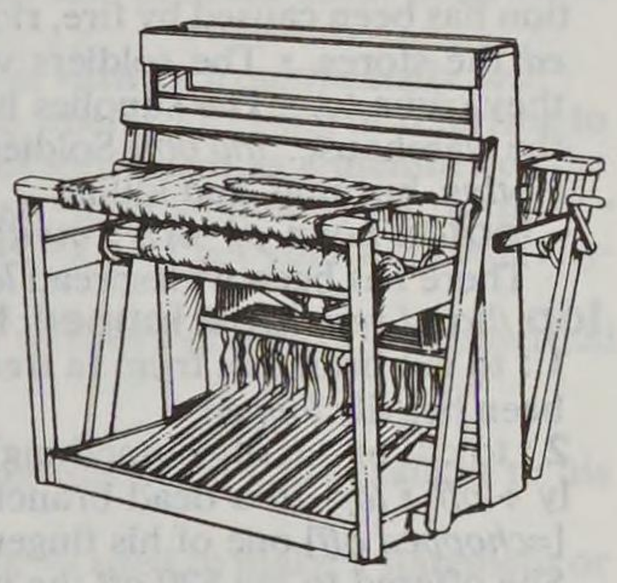
[1]loom /ˈluːm/ *verb* **looms**; **loomed**; **loom•ing** [*no obj*]

1 : to appear in a large, strange, or frightening form often in a sudden way ▪ A ship *loomed* (up) out of the fog. ▪ Storm clouds *loomed* on the horizon. : to appear in an impressively large or great form ▪ The mountains *loom* above/over the valley.

2 : to be close to happening : to be about to happen — used especially of unpleasant or frightening things ▪ A workers' strike is *looming*. ▪ A battle is *looming* in Congress over the proposed budget cuts. ▪ a *looming* battle/conflict/problem/storm ▪ The deadline ***looms closer*** with each passing day.

loom large : to have great importance or influence ▪ Rising tuition costs *loom large* in the minds of many parents. ▪ She was a critic who *loomed large* in literary circles.

[2]loom *noun, pl* **looms** [*count*] : a frame or machine that is used to weave threads or yarns to produce cloth



loom

[1]loon /ˈluːn/ *noun, pl* **loons** [*count*] *informal* : a crazy person ▪ That guy is a complete *loon*. — compare [2]LOON

[2]loon *noun, pl* **loons** [*count*] : a large bird that lives in the northern parts of the world and that eats fish and has a loud and strange cry — compare [1]LOON

loon•ie /ˈluːni/ *noun, pl* **-ies** [*count*] *Canada* : a coin that is worth one Canadian dollar

[1]loo•ny /ˈluːni/ *adj* **loo•ni•er**; **-est** *informal* : crazy or foolish ▪ *loony* extremists ▪ Every family includes someone who's a little *loony*.

[2]loony *noun, pl* **-nies** [*count*] *informal* : a crazy or foolish person ▪ the *loonies* on that late-night television show

loony bin *noun, pl* ~ **bins** [*count*] *informal + offensive* : a hospital for people who are insane ✧ *Loony bin* is usually used in a joking way. ▪ If you keep acting like that we'll have to send you off to the *loony bin*.

[1]loop /ˈluːp/ *noun, pl* **loops**

1 [*count*] **a** : a curved part or shape made when something long and thin (such as a rope or thread) bends so that it touches or crosses over itself ▪ a closed *loop* of rope ▪ a wire with a *loop* at the end ▪ a *loop* of string/thread **b** : something that is shaped like a loop ▪ They rowed along a *loop* in the river. ▪ The road formed a *loop* around the pond. ▪ letters formed with lots of *loops* **c** : a ring or curved piece used for holding something ▪ a belt *loop*

2 [*count*] : an action in which an airplane flies in an upright circle perpendicular to the ground ▪ The pilot did/performed a *loop*. — see also *loop the loop* at [2]LOOP

3 [*count*] : a piece of film or tape with the ends joined together so that the same pictures or sounds are repeated continuously; *also* : a recording that is repeated continuously ▪ The computer-generated images are shown on a continuous *loop*.

4 [*count*] *computers* : a series of instructions that are repeated in a computer program until a specified condition is met

5 *the loop* : a group of people who know about or have influence or control over something — usually used in the phrases ***in the loop*** and ***out of the loop*** ▪ She wants to stay *in the loop* as these changes are being considered. ▪ He claims that he was kept *out of the loop* when the decision to sell the company was being made.

knock/throw (someone) for a loop *US, informal* : to cause (someone) to be very amazed, confused, or shocked ▪ The news of her death really *knocked* me *for a loop*. ▪ His parents were *thrown for a loop* when he quit college.

knock (something) for a loop *US, informal* : to damage or ruin (something) ▪ The town's economy has been *knocked for a loop* by the factory's closing. ▪ The news has *knocked* the stock market *for a loop*.

[2]loop *verb* **loops**; **looped**; **loop•ing**

1 : to form or cause (something) to form a loop [*no obj*] The road *loops* around the pond. ▪ The necklace is long enough to *loop* twice around my neck. [+ *obj*] She *looped* a string around her finger. ▪ He sat with his arms *looped* around his knees.

2 : to move or cause (something) to move in a high curving path [*no obj*] The ball *looped* over the shortstop's head into left field for a single. ▪ The batter hit a *looping* single to left field. [+ *obj*] The batter *looped* a single to left field. ▪ The quarterback *looped* a pass downfield.

loop the loop : to perform a loop in an airplane

looped /ˈluːpt/ *adj, US, informal* : drunk or intoxicated ▪ I took one look at her and knew she was *looped*.

loop•hole /ˈluːpˌhoʊl/ *noun, pl* **-holes** [*count*] : an error in the way a law, rule, or contract is written that makes it possible for some people to legally avoid obeying it ▪ She took advantage of a *loophole* in the tax law. ▪ a tax *loophole* ▪ His attorney has been hunting/searching for a *loophole* that would allow him to get out of the deal. ▪ tried to close/plug a *loophole* in the new legislation

loopy /ˈluːpi/ *adj* **loop•i•er**; **-est**

1 : having many loops ▪ *loopy* handwriting

2 *informal* : strange or silly ▪ a *loopy* comedian ▪ a *loopy* smile/grin ▪ The movie has a certain *loopy* charm.

[1]loose /ˈluːs/ *adj* **loos•er**; **-est**

1 : not tightly fastened, attached, or held ▪ a *loose* tooth ▪ a *loose* thread ▪ Some of the shingles on the roof were *loose*. ▪ The rope was tied in a *loose* knot. ▪ The nails had been pried *loose*. ▪ Some of the shingles had ***come/worked loose***. ▪ The boat *came loose* from its moorings and floated out into the harbor. ▪ The ball ***popped loose*** from the shortstop's glove.

2 a : not pulled or stretched tight ▪ a *loose* belt ▪ *loose* reins on a horse ▪ *loose* skin **b** *of clothing* : not fitting close to your body : not tight ▪ She was wearing a *loose* dress/skirt. ▪ a *loose* [=*baggy*] sweater

3 : not physically held or contained ▪ The dog was wandering *loose* in the streets. ▪ The lion had somehow gotten/broken *loose* [=*free*] from its cage. — see also LET LOOSE 1 (below)

4 a : not held together in a solid or tight mass ▪ *loose* dirt ▪ *loose* rocks ▪ *loose* sandy soil **b** : not held together in a bundle, container, etc. ▪ *loose* sheets of pages ▪ *Loose* hairs stuck out from under his cap. ▪ She let her hair hang down *loose*. ▪ You can buy a bag of potatoes or some *loose* potatoes.

5 : not stiff or tense : flexible or relaxed ▪ He walked with a *loose* stride. ▪ *loose* muscles ▪ I never relaxed that day; I just couldn't get *loose*. ▪ Runners should warm up for a few minutes to get *loose*. ▪ I tried to ***stay loose*** during the game, but I was too nervous. — see also HANG LOOSE (below)

6 : not closely joined or united ▪ Ten advocacy groups from all parts of the country formed a *loose* alliance/association/coalition to present their shared interests to Congress.

7 a : not exact or precise ▪ a very *loose* translation ▪ a *loose* interpretation of the law ▪ This book is only a novel in the *loose* sense of the word. [=the word "novel" does not usually refer to a book like this; many people would not consider the book a novel] **b** : not careful in speech : talking too freely ▪ *Loose* [=*careless*] talk spread the rumor. ▪ She has a ***loose tongue***. [=she talks too much about things that are private, secret, etc.]

8 *sports* : not controlled or held by any of the players in a game ▪ a *loose* ball/puck
9 *old-fashioned* : not respectable sexually : not decent or moral ▪ He was accused of *loose* conduct/behavior. ▪ a *loose* woman ▪ *loose* morals
10 *of solid waste from the body* : containing a larger than normal amount of fluid ▪ *loose* stools; *also* : producing loose stools ▪ *loose* bowels ▪ *loose* bowel movements
all hell breaks loose see HELL
break loose see ¹BREAK
cut loose **1** ***cut (someone) loose*** : to stop supporting or employing (someone) ▪ He worked here for a few years but he didn't do a good job, so we finally had to *cut* him *loose*. : to end an official relationship or agreement with (someone) ▪ She's been *cut loose* from her contract. [=the company/organization with whom she had a contract to work has ended the contract] **2** *chiefly US, informal* : to act in a free and relaxed way after behaving in a way that is controlled ▪ I enjoy *cutting loose* with friends on weekends.
hang loose *chiefly US, informal* : to remain calm and relaxed ▪ Just *hang loose* for a minute. I'll be right back.
have a screw loose, have a loose screw see ¹SCREW
let loose **1** ***let (someone or something) loose or set/turn (someone or something) loose*** : to allow (someone or something) to move or go freely ▪ He *let/set* the dogs *loose* in the courtyard. ▪ cattle *let loose* to graze on the green fields — often used figuratively ▪ It's the end of the school year, when schools *turn* students *loose* on our towns. ▪ a director who's willing to *let* her actors *loose* to interpret their roles however they see fit ▪ how to stop the violence that has been *let loose* [=*loosed*] on the city **2** : to produce (something, such as a cry) in a sudden and forceful way ▪ The crowd *let loose* [=*let out*] an enormous groan when the pass was intercepted. ▪ She *let loose* (with) a scream.
play fast and loose see ¹PLAY
– **loose•ly** *adv* ▪ The clothes fit *loosely*. ▪ The term is *loosely* used by most people. ▪ The rider held the reins *loosely* as the horse slowed to a walk. ▪ *loosely* affiliated/allied businesses ▪ The company was *loosely* organized. ▪ The movie is ***loosely based on*** the novel. [=it is based on the novel but many things are different in the movie] – **loose•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ moral *looseness* ▪ the *looseness* of the translation ▪ the *looseness* of his clothing

²loose *adv* : in a way that does not fit close to your body ▪ *loose*-fitting clothing

³loose *verb* **loos•es**; **loosed**; **loos•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to release or untie (an animal or person) ▪ They *loosed* the dogs on the prowlers. [=they released the dogs so that they could catch, chase away, etc., the prowlers] — often used figuratively ▪ riots that have *loosed* an epidemic of violence on the city
2 : to make (something) less tight : LOOSEN ▪ He *loosed* his grip.
3 : to shoot or fire (something, such as an arrow or a bullet) ▪ The soldiers *loosed* a volley of rifle fire.

⁴loose *noun*
on the loose : able to move freely : not controlled or held in a prison, cage, etc. — used especially to describe a dangerous person, animal, or group ▪ The prisoner escaped and is still *on the loose*. ▪ A killer is *on the loose*. ▪ An angry mob was *on the loose*.

loose cannon *noun, pl* ~ **-nons** [*count*] : a person who cannot be controlled and who does or says things that cause problems, embarrassment, etc., for others ▪ a politician who is regarded as a *loose cannon* by her colleagues

loose change *noun* [*noncount*] : coins that a person is carrying ▪ He had a few dollars in *loose change* in his pockets.

loose end *noun, pl* ~ **ends** [*count*] : a part of something (such as a job or story) that has not been completed ▪ We still have one more *loose end* to deal with before we're finished with the project. — usually plural ▪ The project is almost complete, but we still have a few *loose ends* to tie up. ▪ All the story's *loose ends* were wrapped up as the novel ended.
at loose ends (*US*) *or Brit* ***at a loose end*** : not knowing what to do : not having anything in particular to do ▪ With everyone on vacation she was *at loose ends*. ▪ Drop by if you find yourself *at loose ends* this weekend.

loose–joint•ed /ˈluːsˈʤɔɪntəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : able to move in a very free and relaxed way ▪ a *loose-jointed* [=*flexible, loose-limbed*] dancer/gymnast

loose–leaf /ˈluːsˈliːf/ *adj* : designed so that sheets of paper can be added or removed by opening a locking device that holds the sheets of paper in place ▪ a *loose-leaf* notebook/binder/folder

loose–limbed /ˈluːsˈlɪmd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : able to move in a very free and relaxed way ▪ a *loose-limbed* [=*flexible, loose-jointed*] athlete

loos•en /ˈluːsn/ *verb* **-ens**; **-ened**; **-en•ing**
1 a [+ *obj*] : to make (something) less tight or firm : to make (something) loose or looser ▪ He used a spade to *loosen* the soil. ▪ She *loosened* the cake from the sides of the pan. ▪ *loosen* a screw ▪ After eating so much I had to *loosen* my belt. ▪ When the meeting was over he *loosened* his tie. ▪ She ***loosened her grip/hold*** on the rope. [=she began to hold the rope less tightly] — sometimes used figuratively ▪ He has *loosened his grip/hold* on the company. **b** [*no obj*] : to become less tight or firm : to become loose or looser ▪ One of the screws had *loosened* a bit and had to be tightened. ▪ Her grip *loosened*.
2 : to become or to cause (something) to become less strict [+ *obj*] We want to *loosen* (up) the controls/restrictions that the law has imposed. ▪ Each generation seems to *loosen* the established standards of behavior. [*no obj*] Standards of behavior seem to be *loosening* everywhere.
loosen someone's tongue : to cause someone to talk more freely : to cause someone to say things that would not usually be said ▪ Drinking alcohol can *loosen your tongue*.
loosen up [*phrasal verb*] **1** : to make or become less tense : RELAX ▪ He *loosens up* by exercising. ▪ After a couple of drinks she had *loosened up* and was talking freely. ▪ He seemed nervous and his friends kept telling him to *loosen up*. **2** ***loosen (someone or something) up or loosen up (someone or something)*** : to cause (someone or something) to relax ▪ He exercises to *loosen up* his muscles. [=he exercises so that his muscles are not stiff] ▪ I tried to *loosen* her *up* [=I tried to get her to relax and feel comfortable] by telling a few jokes.

loos•ey–goos•ey /ˌluːsiˈguːsi/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *chiefly US, informal* : very loose or relaxed ▪ a *loosey-goosey* attitude

¹loot /ˈluːt/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : something that is stolen or taken by force ▪ After raiding the town, the soldiers helped themselves to any *loot* that they could find. ▪ The thieves got a lot of *loot* in the robbery.
2 *informal* : MONEY ▪ He made a lot of *loot* selling cars.

²loot *verb* **loots**; **loot•ed**; **loot•ing** : to steal things from (a place, such as a store or house) during a war or after destruction has been caused by fire, rioting, etc. [+ *obj*] Rioters *looted* the stores. ▪ The soldiers were *looting* every house that they came to. ▪ The supplies had been *looted* [=*stolen*] from the warehouse. [*no obj*] Soldiers swept through the territory, *looting*, burning, and killing.
– **loot•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] – **looting** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ There has been widespread *looting* throughout the city.

lop /ˈlɑːp/ *verb* **lops**; **lopped**; **lop•ping** [+ *obj*]
1 : to cut branches from (a tree, bush, etc.) ▪ trees that have been heavily *lopped*
2 : to cut or cut off (something) ▪ badly *lopped* hair — usually + *off* ▪ *lop off* a dead branch ▪ He accidentally *lopped off* [=*chopped off*] one of his fingers. — often used figuratively ▪ She offered to *lop* $20 *off* the price. [=to reduce the price by $20] ▪ They *lopped* several million dollars *off* the budget.

lope /ˈloʊp/ *verb* **lopes**; **loped**; **lop•ing** [*no obj*] : to run in a relaxed way with long strides ▪ The horses *loped* easily across/over the fields. ▪ He went *loping* up the hill. ▪ The outfielder *loped* after the ball.
– **lope** *noun* [*singular*] ▪ She ran with an easy *lope*. – **loping** *adj* ▪ She ran with a long *loping* gait. – **lo•ping•ly** *adv* ▪ run/move *lopingly*

lop–eared /ˈlɑːpˌɪərd/ *adj* : having long ears that hang down ▪ a *lop-eared* bunny/rabbit ▪ a *lop-eared* dog

lop•pers /ˈlɑːpərz/ *noun* [*plural*] : a garden tool used for cutting branches and twigs ▪ a pair of *loppers*

lop•sid•ed /ˈlɑːpˌsaɪdəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : having one side that is lower or smaller than the other ▪ The boat looked *lopsided*. ▪ The house had a *lopsided* porch. ▪ a *lopsided* grin/smile
2 : uneven or unequal ▪ They won the game by a *lopsided* score of 25–3. ▪ a *lopsided* vote of 99 to 1 ▪ (*chiefly US*) He won a *lop-sided* victory in the recent election. [=he won the election very easily; he had many more votes than the other candidates]
– **lop•sid•ed•ly** *adv* – **lop•sid•ed•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

lo•qua•cious /loʊˈkweɪʃəs/ *adj* : liking to talk and talking smoothly and easily ▪ a *loquacious* and glib politician ▪ the *loquacious* host of a radio talk show
– **lo•qua•cious•ly** *adv* – **lo•qua•cious•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ a politician known for her *loquaciousness* – **lo•quac•i•ty** /loʊˈkwæsəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* ▪ a politician known for her *loquacity*

[1]lord /ˈlɔəd/ *noun, pl* **lords**
1 [*count*] : a man who has power and authority: such as **a** : a man who ruled over a large area of land in the Middle Ages ▪ a feudal *lord* **b** : a very powerful criminal ▪ a crime/drug/gang *lord* — see also SLUMLORD, WARLORD
2 *Lord* [*singular*] **a** — used as a name for God or Jesus Christ ▪ Ask the *Lord* for forgiveness. ▪ Praise the *Lord*. ▪ Oh *Lord*, hear our prayers. **b** ✧ ***Lord*** is used informally by itself and in phrases to make a statement or question more forceful or to express surprise, anger, etc. ▪ *Lord*, it's hot out today. ▪ ***Lord almighty***, is it that late already? ▪ ***Good Lord***, what have they done?! ▪ ***My Lord***, what were you thinking?! ▪ ***Oh my Lord***! I can't believe it!
3 a [*count*] : a man who is a member of the British nobility ▪ He became a *lord* upon the death of his father. **b** [*noncount*] ***Lord*** — used as a title for certain British noblemen and male officials of high rank ▪ *Lord* Churchill ▪ Alfred, *Lord* Tennyson ▪ *Lord* Advocate — see also LORD MAYOR
4 *the Lords* *Brit* : HOUSE OF LORDS ▪ The government had the support of *the Lords*.
in the year of our Lord see YEAR
Lord help someone see [1]HELP
Lord knows see [1]KNOW
thank the Lord see THANK

[2]lord *verb* **lords**; **lord•ed**; **lord•ing**
lord it over someone : to act in a way that shows you think you are better or more important than someone ▪ She knows she's very smart and *lords it over* her younger brothers. ▪ He got the only A in the class and was *lording it over* his classmates.

lord•ly /ˈlɔədli/ *adj* **lord•li•er**; **-est** [*or more* ~; *most* ~]
1 a : having the qualities of a lord ▪ a *lordly* and dignified man **b** : suitable for a lord : very large and impressive ▪ a *lordly* estate
2 : having or showing a feeling of being better than other people ▪ *lordly* airs of superiority ▪ He regarded his neighbors with *lordly* disdain.

Lord Mayor *noun, pl* ~ **Mayors** [*count*] : the title of the mayor of the City of London and of some other large cities in Britain and Ireland

lord•ship /ˈlɔədˌʃɪp/ *noun, pl* **-ships** [*count*] *chiefly Brit*
1 *Lordship* — used as a title when addressing or referring to someone who has the title of lord (such as a member of the nobility, a judge, or a bishop); used with *his*, *your*, or *their* ▪ *His Lordship* is not at home. ▪ Can I get *your Lordship* anything else?
2 : the authority, power, or territory of a lord ▪ He inherited a *lordship*.

Lord's Prayer *noun*
the Lord's Prayer : a prayer that Jesus Christ taught to his followers

Lordy /ˈlɔəd/ *interj, informal* — used to make a statement or question more forceful or to express surprise ▪ *Lordy*, that girl can sing! ▪ *Lordy* it's hot today.

lore /ˈlɔə/ *noun* [*noncount*] : traditional knowledge, beliefs, and stories that relate to a particular place, subject, or group ▪ an event that has become part of local *lore* ▪ forest *lore* ▪ the *lore* of sailing — see also FOLKLORE

lor•ry /ˈlɔri/ *noun, pl* **-ries** [*count*] *Brit* : TRUCK

lose /ˈluːz/ *verb* **los•es**; **lost** /ˈlɑːst/; **los•ing**
1 [+ *obj*] : to be unable to find (something or someone) ▪ She's always *losing* her gloves. ▪ Don't *lose* your keys. ▪ Hold my hand: I don't want to *lose* you. ▪ The police *lost* him in the crowd. [=the police were no longer able to find/see him after he went into the crowd] ▪ The airline *lost* my luggage. [=my luggage did not arrive at the airport I flew into] ▪ He *lost* the fly ball in the sun. [=he was unable to see the fly ball because he was looking toward the sun] ▪ The letter was ***lost in the mail***. [=it was sent but never delivered to the person it was addressed to]
2 : to fail to win (a game, contest, etc.) [+ *obj*] *lose* a battle/game ▪ She *lost* her bid for reelection. [=she failed to win the election; she was not reelected] ▪ We *lost* the game by a score of 4–2. ▪ He *lost* his title in the rematch. ▪ She *lost* the lawsuit. ▪ The team *lost* three games but won the next four. [*no obj*] The team *lost* in the finals. ▪ an athlete known for *losing* with grace ▪ That horse always *loses*. ▪ He hates to *lose* when money is involved. ▪ How could she play that well and still *lose*? — often + *to* ▪ The Yankees *lost to* the Red Sox.
3 a [+ *obj*] : to fail to keep or hold (something wanted or valued) ▪ *lose* an advantage ▪ The country *lost* its independence 50 years ago. ▪ The mayor is *losing* power/influence/support. ▪ He is in danger of *losing* control of the company. ▪ She *lost* control of the car and skidded off the road. ▪ I was so angry that I *lost* control (of myself, of my temper) and yelled at them. ▪ She didn't *lose* her job but she *lost* access to all confidential company materials. ▪ The senator *lost* votes when he angered some of his supporters. ▪ The religious community was *losing* its younger members. ▪ He hasn't *lost* his sense of humor. ▪ They had *lost* all hope of winning the title. ▪ I don't want anything to eat. I've *lost* my appetite. [=I no longer feel hungry] ▪ She began to *lose* confidence in herself. [=to feel less confident] ▪ Try not to *lose* patience with the children. ▪ The accident victim was rapidly *losing* blood. ▪ I'm sorry I'm late. I ***lost track of*** the time. [=I failed to stay aware of the time; I did not realize that so much time had passed] ▪ She ***lost her balance*** [=failed to keep her weight spread equally] and fell. **b** ✧ If you ***have nothing (else/left) to lose***, you cannot make a situation worse by taking a risk. If you ***have a lot to lose*** or ***have too much to lose***, you could make your situation much worse by taking a risk or doing something. ▪ You might as well apply for the job. You have *nothing to lose* and everything to gain. ▪ Some of them are married and have young children—they *have a lot to lose*. ▪ I can't quit now. I *have too much to lose*. **c** : to fail to earn or keep (money) [+ *obj*] They *lost* all their money/savings in a poor investment. ▪ The company has been ***losing money*** for the past several years. [=it has been spending more money than it has been earning] [*no obj*] Investors *lost* heavily when the company's stock failed to meet expectations. **d** [+ *obj*] : to have (something) taken from you or destroyed ▪ We *lost* (electrical) power during the storm. ▪ He *lost* an arm in the war. [=one of his arms was destroyed or so badly injured that it had to be removed] ▪ They ***lost everything*** in the fire. [=all their possessions were destroyed in the fire] ▪ He yelled so much during the game that he ***lost his voice*** [=he was unable to speak] for two days. **e** [+ *obj*] : to gradually have less of (something) as time passes ▪ Many people who *lose* weight by dieting eventually gain the weight back. ▪ She has been *losing* strength in her legs. ▪ He was gradually *losing* his eyesight. ▪ He's *losing* his hair. [=becoming bald] ▪ The public seems to have *lost* interest in the case.
4 [+ *obj*] : to cause (someone) to fail to win or keep (something) : to cause the loss of (something) for (someone) ▪ One careless statement *lost* the election for her. = One careless statement *lost* her the election. [=she lost the election because of one careless statement]
5 a : to decrease in (something) [+ *obj*] The TV program has *lost* popularity [=become less popular] in recent years. ▪ The plane was *losing* altitude. ▪ What will you do if the company's stock *loses* value when you expect it to gain value? [*no obj*] What will you do if the stock *loses* when you expect it to gain? **b** [+ *obj*] : to decrease in value by (a specified amount) ▪ His retirement account *lost* three percent last quarter. **c** [*no obj*] : to decrease in value when compared to something else ▪ The dollar *lost* against the pound last week.
6 [+ *obj*] **a** : to experience or suffer the death of (a relative, friend, etc.) ▪ She *lost* her husband in the war. [=her husband was killed in the war] ▪ He *lost* his best friend to cancer. [=his best friend died of cancer] ▪ The country *lost* thousands of young men in/during the war. = Thousands of young men were *lost* [=*killed*] in/during the war. = Thousands of young men ***lost their lives*** in/during the war. ▪ She's very sick, and the doctors say they're afraid they're going to *lose* her. [=they're afraid that she is going to die] ▪ I was sad to hear that she ***lost the baby***. [=that her baby died before being born or soon after being born] ▪ a sailor who was ***lost at sea*** [=who died at sea] **b** : to no longer have or be with (someone who leaves) ▪ We'll be sorry to *lose* you when you leave for your new job. ▪ He begged his wife to forgive him and told her that he didn't want to *lose* her.
7 [+ *obj*] : to fail to keep control of (something) ▪ He ***lost his temper/cool/composure***. [=he became angry] ▪ She wondered if she was ***losing her mind/sanity***. [=becoming insane] ▪ He seems to be ***losing his nerve***. [=becoming afraid] — see also *lose your head* at [1]HEAD
8 [+ *obj*] **a** : to fail to use (something, such as time) : WASTE ▪ I don't want to *lose* this chance/opportunity. ▪ We *lost* (a

good bit of) *time* in that traffic jam. ▪ She ***lost no time*** in getting the project started. [=she got the project started immediately] ▪ We need to get started immediately. There's ***no time to lose*** **b** *of a watch or clock* : to show a time that is earlier than the correct time : to run slow by (an amount of time) [+ *obj*] My old watch *loses* a minute every day. [*no obj*] a clock that *loses* less than any other clock yet invented

9 [+ *obj*] : to explain something in a way that is not clear to (someone) : to confuse (someone) ▪ I'm sorry. You've ***lost me*** [=I don't understand what you're telling me] ▪ I understood the first part of the lecture, but when he started to talk about quantum physics he *lost me* completely. [=I was completely unable to understand what he was saying]

10 [+ *obj*] : to succeed in getting away from (someone who is following or chasing you) ▪ She tried to *lose* them by turning down a side street.

11 [+ *obj*] *informal* : to get rid of (something unwanted) ▪ I just can't seem to *lose* this cold. ▪ *Lose* the attitude, okay? [=stop having a bad attitude; stop being annoyed, uncooperative, etc.] ▪ You can *lose* [=*remove*] that sentence and the paragraph will sound better.

lose contact see ¹CONTACT

lose count see ²COUNT

lose face see ¹FACE

lose ground see ¹GROUND

lose it *informal* **1** : to become insane ▪ He was always a little strange, but now he's completely *lost it*. **2** : to start behaving in an uncontrolled way because you are angry or upset ▪ I was so angry that I almost *lost it*.

lose out [*phrasal verb*] : to fail to keep or get something valued or desired ▪ Whoever benefits from the new government programs, the American taxpayer is bound to *lose out* in the end. — often + *on* or *to* ▪ If you don't invest with us, you'll be *losing out on* a great opportunity! [=you'll be missing/wasting a great opportunity] ▪ She *lost out to* a better-known actress for the lead role. [=she did not get the lead role because a better-known actress got it]

lose sleep over see ²SLEEP

lose the plot see ¹PLOT

lose touch see ²TOUCH

lose your bearings see BEARING

lose your grip see ²GRIP

lose your head see ¹HEAD

lose your heart see HEART

lose your life see ¹LIFE

lose your lunch see ¹LUNCH

lose your marbles see MARBLE

lose yourself : to give all of your attention or thought to something ▪ He *lost himself* in his work. ▪ a musician who completely *loses herself* in the music

lose your shirt see SHIRT

lose your touch see ²TOUCH

lose your way see ¹WAY

– los•able /ˈluːzəbəl/ *adj* ▪ a *losable* game **– los•ing** *adj* ▪ the *losing* candidate in the race [=the candidate who did not win; the candidate who lost] ▪ The team is on a *losing* streak. ▪ The team had a *losing* record/season.

los•er /ˈluːzə/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

1 : someone or something that loses a game, contest, etc. ▪ She was a *loser* in the first round of the tournament. [=she lost in the first round of the tournament] ▪ The team had a reputation for being a *loser* year after year. ▪ The *loser* of the bet has to buy drinks for the winner. ▪ She's a ***good loser*** [=she does not become upset or angry when she loses] ▪ He's a ***bad/poor loser*** = (*US*) He's a ***sore loser*** [=he becomes upset or angry when he loses]

2 : someone who is harmed or put in a worse position as the result of something ▪ Whoever benefits from the new government programs, the real *loser* will be the American taxpayer.

3 *informal* + *disapproving* : a person who is not successful, attractive, etc. ▪ She's a (total, complete) *loser*. ▪ That guy is a ***born loser***.

finders keepers (losers weepers) see FINDER

loss /ˈlɑːs/ *noun, pl* **loss•es**

1 a : failure to keep or to continue to have something [*noncount*] — usually + *of* ▪ the mayor's *loss of* support/influence ▪ Surgeons were unable to control the *loss of* blood in the victim. ▪ Symptoms include insomnia and *loss of* appetite. ▪ Both accidents were attributed to the drivers' *loss of* control. ▪ The recession has caused the *loss of* many jobs. ▪ The accident caused enormous ***loss of life*** [=many people died in the accident] [*singular*] — usually + *of* ▪ a *loss of* innocence ▪ The victim died from a *loss of* blood to the brain. [*plural*] There have been heavy job *losses* because of the recession. [=many people have been laid off] **b** [*noncount*] : the experience of having something taken from you or destroyed ▪ The storm caused widespread *loss* of electricity. ▪ soldiers who have suffered the *loss* of a limb [=soldiers who have had an arm or leg destroyed or so badly injured that it had to be removed]

2 [*count*] : money that is spent and that is more than the amount earned or received ▪ The company's *losses* for the year were higher than expected. ▪ profits and *losses* ▪ They ***took a loss*** on the deal. [=the deal cost them money; they lost money on the deal] ▪ The business is operating ***at a loss*** [=the business is spending more money than it is earning] ▪ They sold the property *at a* (considerable) *loss*. [=for less than they paid for it] — see also AT A LOSS (below)

3 : failure to win a game, contest, etc. [*noncount*] A careless error resulted in the *loss* of the game. [*count*] The team suffered a 3–2 *loss* in the last game. ▪ The team has an equal number of wins and *losses*. ▪ the party's *losses* in the recent election

4 a : a decrease in something or in the amount of something [*singular*] The plane experienced a *loss* of altitude. [*noncount*] We need to determine the *loss* in value due to the damage. ▪ The new windows reduce temperature *loss* by 15 percent. ▪ Don't be concerned about the *loss* of a few pounds. You're still a healthy weight. ▪ Side effects of the treatment include nausea and hair *loss*. ▪ memory/weight *loss* **b** [*singular*] : a decrease in value by a specified amount ▪ The stock market had a *loss* of four percent yesterday.

5 [*noncount*] **a** : the death or a relative, friend, etc. — usually + *of* ▪ She mourned the *loss of* her parents. ▪ the *loss of* a dear friend to cancer **b** : the experience of having someone leave — usually + *of* ▪ The company has had to deal with the *loss* [=*departure*] *of* several key employees. **c** : a feeling of sadness that you have when someone dies, leaves, etc. ▪ Their deaths left everyone with a great/deep ***sense of loss*** ▪ The ***feeling of loss*** you experienced after your divorce is not uncommon.

6 [*singular*] : something that causes harm, sadness, etc., *to* a group or organization ▪ Their deaths were a great *loss to* the community. ▪ His retirement was a real *loss to* the company.

7 [*singular*] : something that is completely destroyed ▪ After the flood, the crops were a total *loss*. ▪ No one was injured in the accident, but the car was a complete *loss*.

8 *losses* [*plural*] : soldiers killed, wounded, or captured in battle ▪ During the battle the allies suffered/sustained/took/experienced heavy *losses*.

9 [*count*] *American football* : the distance the ball is moved away from the goal during a play ▪ There was a gain of five yards on first down, but a *loss* of three yards on second down.

at a loss : not able to decide what should be done or said ▪ I don't know what to do. I'm *at a* (complete) *loss*. ▪ They were ***at a loss to explain*** [=they were unable to explain] why it took so long to correct the problem. — see also LOSS 2 (above)

at a loss for words *chiefly US* : unable to think of anything to say ▪ I was so surprised to see her that I was *at a loss for words*. [=(*chiefly Brit*) *lost for words*]

cut your losses : to stop an activity, business, etc., that is failing in order to prevent more losses or damage ▪ With the economy continuing to do poorly, many investors have decided to *cut their losses* and sell their stocks.

it's your loss ✧ People say that something *is your loss* when you choose not to do something that they think would help you or that you would enjoy. ▪ If she doesn't want to come to the party, *it's her loss*.

throw (someone) for a loss : to cause (someone) to be very amazed, confused, or shocked ▪ Recent revelations have *thrown* me *for a loss*. [=(more commonly) *for a loop*]

loss adjuster *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] *Brit* : INSURANCE ADJUSTER

loss leader *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] *business* : a product that is sold for less than it is worth in order to attract customers

¹lost *past participle of* LOSE

²lost /ˈlɑːst/ *adj*

1 : unable to be found ▪ He was looking for his *lost* keys. ▪ *lost* baggage/luggage ▪ Many have tried to find the ruins of the *lost* city. — see also LONG-LOST

2 : not knowing where you are or how to get to where you want to go : unable to find your way ▪ The child was *lost*. ▪ We took a wrong turn and got *lost*. ▪ a *lost* puppy ▪ Hold my hand. I don't want you to get *lost*.

3 a : no longer held, owned, or possessed ▪ He has been trying to recapture his *lost* youth. ▪ She's been lagging at the polls, but hopes to recover/recoup ***lost ground*** with tonight's debate. [=she hopes to gain again support she had lost] **b** : no longer known ▪ a *lost* civilization ▪ It's a *lost* art. ▪ The original music is *lost* to us forever. **c** : no longer available ▪ a *lost* opportunity/chance [=an opportunity that was not used] ▪ The strike has cost the company millions in *lost* sales/earnings/revenue. [=sales/earnings/revenue that the company would have had if the strike had not happened] ▪ We need to work faster to ***make up for lost time***. [=we need to work faster because we did not get enough of the work done before now]

4 a : not won ▪ a *lost* battle : not possible to win ▪ The game was irretrievably/hopelessly *lost* by the end of the first half. **b** : not capable of succeeding ▪ Finishing the project on time seemed like a ***lost cause***. [=finishing the project on time seemed impossible]

5 a *not used before a noun* [*more ~; most ~*] : lacking confidence and feeling unsure of what to do ▪ When she first moved to the city she felt a bit *lost* and out of her depth. ▪ I don't know how I ever managed without my computer: I'd be totally ***lost without*** it! ▪ I depend on her for everything. I'd be *lost without* her. **b** : very unhappy ▪ a ***lost soul*** [=a lonely and unhappy person]

6 *not used before a noun* : so interested in something that you do not notice other things ▪ When he's reading a book he's ***lost to the world***. — often + *in* ▪ He was *lost in* his book. ▪ She was ***lost in thought***. [=she was thinking about something and not noticing the people and things around her] ▪ He seems to be *lost in* a world of his own. ▪ *lost in* (a) reverie

get lost *informal* : to go away : LEAVE — used in speech as a rude or angry way to tell someone to go away; see also ²LOST 2 (above)

give someone up for lost : to decide that someone cannot be helped or saved ▪ He was desperately ill, and most of the doctors had *given him up for lost*. [=most of the doctors said that he would die]

he who hesitates is lost see HESITATE

lost for words *chiefly Brit* : unable to think of anything to say ▪ I was so surprised to see her that I was *lost for words*. [=(*chiefly US*) *at a loss for words*]

lost in the shuffle see ²SHUFFLE

lost on : not appreciated or understood by (someone) ▪ The jokes were *lost on* me. [=I didn't understand the jokes] ▪ The meaning of her remark wasn't *lost on* him. ▪ The message was *lost on* those for whom it was intended.

no love lost, very little love lost see ¹LOVE

lot /ˈlɑːt/ *noun, pl* **lots**

1 [*count*] **a** *chiefly US* : a small piece of land that is or could be used for buiding something or for some other purpose ▪ He bought the vacant/empty *lot* across the street. ▪ They own the house on the corner *lot*. ▪ a building *lot* — see also PARKING LOT **b** : the buildings and land that are owned by a company that makes movies and television programs ▪ We took a tour of the Universal *lot*.

2 [*count*] : a small object used to choose the person who will do or receive something ✧ When someone is ***chosen by lot*** or when people ***draw lots*** or (less commonly) ***cast lots*** to choose someone, each person in a group takes a small object or a piece of paper from a container. One of the objects or pieces of paper is different from the others, and the person who takes the different one is chosen. ▪ The winner was chosen *by lot*. ▪ We *drew lots* to determine the winner.

3 [*singular*] : a person's situation in life especially as decided by chance ▪ The organization has done much to improve the *lot* of underprivileged youth. ▪ Unhappy with her ***lot in life***, she moved to the city to start over. ***synonyms*** see DESTINY

4 *informal* **a** [*count*] *chiefly Brit* : all the members of a group of people — usually singular ▪ Do you know the *lot* [=*bunch, crowd*] that hang around the arcade? ▪ That *lot* will never amount to anything! They're a thoroughly bad *lot*. ▪ Pipe down, the (whole) *lot* of you. = Pipe down, ***you lot***. ✧ In British English, a person who is not liked is sometimes described as ***a bad lot***. ▪ He may be a bit wild, but he's not *a bad lot* once you get to know him. **b** ***the lot*** : all the things of a group ▪ They sell tuxedos, business suits, casual wear . . . *the lot*. ▪ This one's the best of *the lot*.

5 [*count*] : one or more things being sold as one item at an auction ▪ *Lot* 45 is a dining room set. — see also JOB LOT

a lot **1** *also (informal)* ***lots*** : a large amount ▪ She has done *a lot* to help other people. ▪ I'd give *a lot* to be able to write like that! ▪ I'm not asking for *a lot*. [=*much*] ▪ They must have paid *a lot* for that car. ▪ We did ***quite a lot*** this morning. ▪ We still have *a lot* to do. = We still have *lots* (*and lots*) to do. **2** : very often ▪ Do they hike *a lot*? ▪ I've been seeing her *a lot* recently. **3** — used to say that you feel a particular emotion very strongly ▪ "Did you like the movie?" "Yes, I liked it *a lot*." [=very much] ▪ I miss her *a lot* since she went away. **4** *also (informal)* ***lots*** : to a large degree or extent : MUCH ▪ This is *a lot* nicer. [=this is much nicer] ▪ There's *a lot* more to it than I realized at first. [=it's more complicated than it looks] ▪ I'm feeling *lots* better. ▪ Thanks *a lot*. [=*very much*]

a lot of *also (informal)* ***lots of*** : a large number or amount of (things, people, etc.) ▪ *A lot of* people feel that way. ▪ There was *a lot of* space. = There was *lots of* space. ▪ We had *lots of* fun. ▪ You can enjoy yourself without spending *a lot of* money. ▪ It doesn't make *a* (whole) *lot of* difference. ▪ We don't have ***an awful lot of*** money/time. [=we don't have much money/time] ▪ (*informal*) I think their ideas are ***a lot of garbage/nonsense***. [=I think their ideas are very foolish] ▪ (*informal*) It doesn't make ***a whole lot of*** [=very much] difference. ▪ ***Not a lot of*** people [=not many people] know that. ▪ "I've brought an umbrella." "***A (fat) lot of good*** that will do [=that will not do any good] now that it's stopped raining!"

leave a lot to be desired see ¹DESIRE

throw in your lot with *or* ***cast your lot with*** : to join or become associated with a person, group, or thing that you hope will win or succeed ▪ During the American Civil War, my great-grandfather *threw in his lot with* the Confederacy/Union.

loth *variant spelling of* LOATH

lo·tion /ˈloʊʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count, noncount*] : a liquid that is rubbed onto your skin or hair ▪ a bottle of suntan *lotion* ▪ styling *lotion*

lot·tery /ˈlɑːtəri/ *noun, pl* **-ter·ies**

1 [*count*] : a way of raising money for a government, charity, etc., in which many tickets are sold and a few of the tickets are chosen by chance to win prizes ▪ Which states have *lotteries*? ▪ a national *lottery* ▪ a *lottery* ticket ▪ She acted like she'd just ***won the lottery***. [=won a lottery run by a government] ▪ Do you ***play the lottery***? [=do you buy lottery tickets?]

2 : a system used to decide who will get or be given something by choosing names or numbers by chance [*count*] They held a *lottery* to determine who could get a green card. [*noncount*] Room assignments are determined ***by lottery***.

3 [*singular*] : an event or situation in which what happens is decided by luck or chance ▪ Life's a *lottery*, isn't it? It all depends on luck.

lo·tus /ˈloʊtəs/ *noun, pl* **-tus·es** [*count*] : a type of flowering plant that grows on the surface of water

loud /ˈlaʊd/ *adj* **loud·er; -est**

1 : making or causing a lot of noise : strong and noticeable in sound ▪ a *loud* noise/party ▪ *loud* music/laughter/applause ▪ She complained in a *loud* voice. ▪ "Is the television *loud* enough?" "It's too *loud*!" — opposite QUIET

2 a *of a person* : noisy in a way that bothers other people ▪ He's known for being *loud* and aggressive. **b** : expressing ideas or opinions in a very open and forceful way — + *in* ▪ He has been *loud in* (his) praise of their efforts. [=he has strongly praised their efforts] ▪ Her critics have been *loud in* (their) disapproval of her policies.

3 : very bright or too bright in color ▪ *loud* [=*gaudy, garish*] clothes/colors/jewelry

actions speak louder than words see ACTION

out loud : in a way that is loud enough to be clearly heard : ALOUD ▪ She doesn't like to read *out loud* [=*aloud*] in class.

– **loud** *adv, not used before a verb* ▪ Don't talk so *loud*! ▪ Say it *loud*. ▪ They complained ***loud and long*** about the decision. ▪ "Can you hear me now?" "***Loud and clear***." [=I can hear you very clearly] ▪ talking *loud* [=talking loudly, loudly talking] – **loud·ly** *adv* ▪ *loudly* singing ▪ complaining/protesting *loudly* – **loud·ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ She complained about the *loudness* of the television.

loud·hail·er /ˌlaʊdˈheɪlɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *Brit* : BULLHORN

loud·mouth /ˈlaʊdˌmaʊθ/ *noun, pl* **-mouths** [*count*] *informal + disapproving* : a loud person : a person who talks too much and who says unpleasant or stupid things

– **loud·mouthed** /ˈlaʊdˌmaʊθt/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ a *loudmouthed* heckler

loud·speak·er /ˈlaʊdˌspiːkɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a de-

vice that is used to make sound (such as music or a person's voice) louder and to send it out so that many people can hear it in a public space ▪ He made an announcement ***over/on the loudspeaker***. = He made an announcement using the *loudspeaker*.

[1]lounge /ˈlaʊnʤ/ *verb* **loung·es**; **lounged**; **loung·ing** [*no obj*] : to sit or lie in a relaxed way ▪ She was *lounging* on the sofa. ▪ *lounging* in bed : to spend time resting or relaxing ▪ He was *lounging* by the pool all afternoon. ▪ *lounging* at the bar — often + *around* or (*Brit*) *about* ▪ We spent our vacation just *lounging around* [=*relaxing*] on the beach.
– **loung·er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

[2]lounge *noun, pl* **lounges**
1 [*count*] : a room with comfortable furniture for relaxing: such as **a** : a comfortable room where people can spend time while they are waiting in an airport or other public place ▪ an airport *lounge* ▪ the VIP *lounge* **b** : a comfortable room for relaxing in a public building (such as a hotel or school) ▪ (*US*) the faculty/student *lounge* ▪ The hotel has a television *lounge*. **c** *US* : COCKTAIL LOUNGE ▪ We gathered in the hotel *lounge* for a couple of drinks. ▪ a *lounge* act **d** *Brit* : LIVING ROOM
2 [*count*] *chiefly US* : a long chair or couch ▪ She sat/reclined on the *lounge*.
3 [*singular*] : an act or period of relaxing ▪ They had a long, leisurely *lounge* by the pool.

lounge chair *noun, pl* ~ **chairs** [*count*] *chiefly US* : CHAISE LONGUE

lounge suit *noun, pl* ~ **suits** [*count*] *Brit* : BUSINESS SUIT

[1]louse /ˈlaʊs/ *noun* [*count*]
1 *pl* ***lice*** /ˈlaɪs/ : a type of small insect that lives on the bodies of people or animals ▪ a problem with ***head lice***
2 *pl* ***lous·es*** *informal* : a bad or cruel person ▪ Her ex-husband is a real *louse*.

[2]louse *verb* **lous·es**; **loused**; **lous·ing**
louse up [*phrasal verb*] ***louse (something) up*** *or* ***louse up (something)*** *informal* : to do (something) badly ▪ The waitress *loused up* [=*messed up*] our order. : to cause (something) to be ruined or spoiled ▪ The weather really *loused up* our plans.

lousy /ˈlaʊzi/ *adj* **lous·i·er**; **-est**
1 *informal* **a** : bad or poor ▪ She got *lousy* grades in high school. ▪ I like the work, but the pay is *lousy*. ▪ He was a *lousy* husband. : of poor quality : not good or skillful ▪ They did a *lousy* job. ▪ a *lousy* cook/driver ▪ a *lousy* performance — often + *at* or *with* ▪ He is *lousy* [=*terrible*] *at* sports/math/cooking. ▪ She's *lousy with* kids. **b** : not well or healthy ▪ We could see that she was ***feeling lousy***. [=*feeling ill*] ▪ He drank too much and *felt lousy* the next morning. **c** : not happy or pleased ▪ I ***feel lousy*** [=*sorry, bad*] about what happened. **d** : not pleasant ▪ We've been having *lousy* [=*rotten*] weather. ▪ It's a *lousy*, rainy day. **e** : not right or proper ▪ That's a *lousy* way to treat a friend. **f** — used to make an angry statement or description more forceful ▪ That *lousy* bastard!
2 : infested with lice (see [1]LOUSE 1)
lousy with *informal* : having too much or too many of (something) ▪ Her family is *lousy with* money. [=her family is very rich] ▪ That area is *lousy with* tourists.
– **lous·i·ness** /ˈlaʊzinəs/ *noun* [*noncount*]

lout /ˈlaʊt/ *noun, pl* **louts** [*count*] : a stupid, rude, or awkward man ▪ a dumb/drunken *lout* — see also LAGER LOUT
– **lout·ish** /ˈlaʊtɪʃ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ a *loutish* thug – **lout·ish·ly** *adv* ▪ behaving *loutishly* – **lout·ish·ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

lou·ver (*US*) *or Brit* **lou·vre** /ˈluːvə/ *noun, pl* **-vers** [*count*]
1 : an opening in a door or window that has one or more slanted strips to allow air to flow in and out while keeping out rain and sun
2 : one of the slanted strips of a louver
– **lou·vered** (*US*) *or Brit* **lou·vred** /ˈluːvəd/ *adj* ▪ a *louvered* door/window

lov·able *also* **love·able** /ˈlʌvəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : easy to love : having attractive or appealing qualities ▪ a *lovable* clown ▪ He has a bad temper, but he's still *lovable*.
– **lov·ably** *also* **love·ably** /ˈlʌvəbli/ *adv* ▪ a *lovably* strange comedian

[1]love /ˈlʌv/ *noun*
1 [*noncount*] : a feeling of strong or constant affection for a person ▪ motherly/maternal *love* ▪ fatherly/paternal *love* ▪ brotherly/sisterly *love* ▪ Children need unconditional *love* from their parents. — often + *for* ▪ No one could doubt her *love for* her family.
2 [*noncount*] : attraction that includes sexual desire : the strong affection felt by people who have a romantic relationship ▪ a declaration of *love* ▪ He was just a lonely man looking for *love*. ▪ romantic *love* ▪ unrequited *love* ▪ After all these years, they're still very much ***in love*** (with each other). [=they still love each other] — often used before another noun ▪ a *love* poem/song/letter ▪ a *love* potion ▪ a *love* scene/story — see also FREE LOVE, PUPPY LOVE ✧ When people begin to feel romantic love for each other, they ***fall in love***. ▪ They *fell* (madly/passionately) *in love* (with each other). This phrase is also used figuratively. ▪ She *fell in love* with sailing the first time she tried it. ✧ People are sometimes said to ***fall out of love*** when they stop loving each other. ▪ It was sad to see how they gradually *fell out of love* (with each other) after they married. ✧ If people fall in love with each other when they first meet, it is called ***love at first sight***. This phrase is also used figuratively. ▪ When he saw the house, it was *love at first sight*. [=he loved the house as soon as he saw it]
3 [*count*] : a person you love in a romantic way ▪ a lost *love* ▪ You never forget your ***first love***. [=the first person you loved in a romantic way] ▪ He was her one ***true love***. = He was the ***love of her life***.
4 [*singular*] *chiefly Brit* **a** : a kind or helpful person : DEAR ▪ Be a *love* and carry this inside for me, would you? **b** — used to address someone in a loving or friendly way ▪ As long as you're up, (my) *love*, would you mind getting me a drink? ▪ "How do I get to Trafalgar Square?" "Take the Number 24 bus, *love*."
5 [*noncount*] : an expression of love and affection ▪ When you see them again, please ***give them my love***. ▪ Mike and Meg ***send their love***, too. ▪ The gift had a note saying "***With love from*** Meg & Mike." — used to express affection at the end of a written message ▪ Thanks for everything. Hope to see you soon. *Love*, Mike ▪ Be well, my darling, till we meet again! ***Love and kisses***, Meg
6 a [*singular*] : a feeling of great interest, affection, or enthusiasm for something — often + *for* or *of* ▪ We all knew about his *love for* baseball. ▪ She has a *love of* history. ▪ a *love of* good food ▪ "Do you sell your paintings?" "Oh no: I paint just ***for the love of it***." ▪ She's ***in love with*** the idea of becoming an actress. **b** [*count*] : something about which a person feels great interest or enthusiasm ▪ Baseball was his first *love*.
7 [*singular*] : a score of zero in tennis ▪ The score was 40–*love*.

all's fair in love and war see [1]FAIR
for love or money *or chiefly Brit* ***for love nor money*** *informal* — used to give added force to a negative statement ▪ We couldn't get him to go along *for love or money*. [=we failed completely in our attempt to get him to go along]
for the love of God *also* ***for the love of Mike/Pete*** *informal* — used to give added force to an angry statement ▪ *For the love of God*, quiet down! I'm trying to get some sleep here!
labor of love see [1]LABOR
love is blind — used to say that people do not see the faults of the people that they love
make love : to have sex with someone ▪ It was the first time they *made love* (to/with each other).
no love lost ✧ When there is *no love lost* or ***very little love lost*** between people, they dislike each other. ▪ They were polite with each other, but it was clear that there was *no love lost* between them.
– **love·less** /ˈlʌvləs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ an unhappy *loveless* marriage

[2]love *verb* **loves**; **loved**; **lov·ing**
1 : to feel great affection for (someone) : to feel love for (someone) [+ *obj*] She obviously *loves* her family very much. ▪ To know him is to *love* him. [=the people who know him feel great affection for him] [*no obj*] You have to *love* in order to be loved.
2 [+ *obj*] : to feel sexual or romantic love for (someone) ▪ He swore that he *loved* her madly. ▪ He *loves* her, but she doesn't *love* him back. [=she doesn't return his love] ▪ She said she could never marry a man she didn't *love*.
3 [+ *obj*] **a** : to like or desire (something) very much : to take great pleasure in (something) ▪ He *loves* good food. ▪ a much-*loved* old song ▪ I would *love* it if you came with us. = I would *love* you to come with us. = (*US*) I would *love* for you to come with us. [=I would be very happy if you came with us] — often followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ I would *love to have* you come with us. ▪ She *loved to play* the violin. ▪ "Would you like to join us?" "Yes, I'd *love to* (*join you*)." — often + *-ing verb* ▪ She *loved playing* the violin. **b** *informal* : to be very amused

by (something) ▪ I just *love* it [=I find it very amusing] when politicians say that they don't care about polls. = I just *love* how politicians say that they don't care about polls.

4 [+ *obj*] : to do very well in (certain specified conditions) ▪ This plant *loves* dry soil.

I must love you and leave you *Brit, informal* — used to say that you have to leave ▪ I don't want to miss the last train, so I'm afraid *I must love you and leave you*.

loved one ✧ Your *loved ones* are the people you love, especially members of your family. ▪ Many of her friends and *loved ones* visited her in the hospital.

love affair *noun, pl* ~ **-fairs**

1 [*count*] : a romantic or sexual relationship especially between two people who are not married to each other ▪ His wife discovered that he was having a *love affair* [=having an affair] with another woman. ▪ Theirs was a great *love affair*. [=they were very much in love]

2 [*singular*] : a feeling of great interest in and enthusiasm for something — + *with* ▪ The book describes America's *love affair with* baseball.

love•bird /ˈlʌvˌbəd/ *noun, pl* **-birds**

1 [*count*] : a small usually gray or green bird that is a type of parrot

2 *lovebirds* [*plural*] *informal + humorous* : people who are lovers : people who have a romantic relationship ▪ I think I'll leave you two *lovebirds* alone for a while.

love child *noun, pl* ~ **children** [*count*] : a child whose father and mother are not married to each other when the child is born : an illegitimate child ▪ the *love child* of a famous actor and one of his fans

love handles *noun* [*plural*] *informal* : areas of fat along the sides of a person's waist

love–hate /ˈlʌvˈheɪt/ *adj, always used before a noun* : feeling or showing a mixture of love and hate ▪ She has a ***love-hate relationship*** with her ex-husband. [=she has strong feelings of both affection and hatred for her ex-husband]

love life *noun, pl* ~ **lives** [*count*] : a person's romantic and sexual activities and relationships ▪ At that time, he had virtually no *love life*. ▪ She doesn't like to talk about her *love life*.

love•lorn /ˈlʌvˌlɔən/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : unhappy because of love : feeling love for someone who does not feel the same way ▪ a poem about a *lovelorn* [=*lovesick*] young suitor

the lovelorn : people who are unhappy because of love ▪ Her newspaper column offers advice for *the lovelorn*.

[1]love•ly /ˈlʌvli/ *adj* **love•li•er; -est**

1 : attractive or beautiful especially in a graceful way ▪ She was wearing a *lovely* dress. ▪ She looks simply *lovely* in that dress! = That dress looks simply *lovely* on her! ▪ a *lovely* bouquet of flowers ▪ The song has a *lovely* melody. ***synonyms*** see BEAUTIFUL

2 : very good or likable ▪ He's a *lovely* man. [=he's a very good man]

3 : very pleasing : FINE ▪ The hotel has a *lovely* view. ▪ We enjoyed a *lovely* dinner. ▪ a singer with a *lovely* voice ▪ Their children have *lovely* manners. ▪ How *lovely* of you to come! ▪ It was *lovely* to have you here! ▪ (*Brit*) Isn't the coffee ***lovely and*** hot! [=the coffee is pleasingly hot]

– love•li•ness *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *loveliness* of the view

[2]lovely *noun, pl* **-lies** [*count*] *informal* : a beautiful woman : a lovely woman ▪ A chorus line of young *lovelies* danced on the stage.

love•mak•ing /ˈlʌvˌmeɪkɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : sexual activity : the act of making love : SEXUAL INTERCOURSE

love nest *noun, pl* ~ **nests** [*count*] *informal* : a place (such as an apartment) where people who are having a love affair meet each other secretly

lov•er /ˈlʌvɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

1 a : a partner in a romantic or sexual relationship — often plural ▪ They were friends for many years before they became *lovers*. **b** : someone with whom a married person is having a love affair ▪ His wife accused him of having a secret *lover*. ▪ She left her husband and ran away with her *lover*.

2 : a person who loves something ▪ a *lover* of music = a music *lover* ▪ an art *lover*

lover boy *noun, pl* ~ **boys** [*count*] *informal* : a man who is a woman's lover or who has sexual relations with many women ▪ an actress and her *lover boy* ▪ an aging *lover boy*

love seat *noun, pl* ~ **seats** [*count*] *US* : a seat or sofa for two people

love•sick /ˈlʌvˌsɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : unhappy because of love : feeling weak, foolish, or unhappy because someone you love does not love you ▪ The movie is a comedy about a *lovesick* [=*lovelorn*] teenager.

– love•sick•ness *noun* [*noncount*]

lovey /ˈlʌvi/ *noun, Brit, informal* — used to address a person in a loving or friendly way ▪ As long as you're up, *lovey*, would you mind getting me a drink?

lovey–dovey /ˌlʌviˈdʌvi/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *informal* : showing a lot of love or affection ▪ a couple of *lovey-dovey* newlyweds ▪ politicians who suddenly go/get all *lovey-dovey* after criticizing each other for years

lov•ing /ˈlʌvɪŋ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : feeling or showing love : AFFECTIONATE ▪ a *loving* home/family ▪ a *loving* glance ▪ a *loving* husband/wife

2 : very careful and thorough ▪ The old house has undergone a *loving* restoration. ▪ The landscape is described in *loving* [=*painstaking*] detail. ▪ The house requires some ***tender loving care***. [=the house needs many repairs]

– lov•ing•ly *adv* ▪ He gazed at her *lovingly*. ▪ The old house has been *lovingly* restored.

[1]low /ˈloʊ/ *adj* **low•er; -est**

1 a : not rising or extending upward a great distance ▪ *low* mountains/peaks ▪ *low* hills ▪ a *low* building — opposite HIGH **b** : extending or reaching upward less than other things of the same kind ▪ *low* boots ▪ a *low* fence ▪ *low* [=*short*] grass — opposite HIGH **c** : not located far above the ground or another surface ▪ *low* clouds/altitudes ▪ The sun was *low* [=near the horizon] in the western sky. ▪ The apartment has *low* ceilings. — opposite HIGH **d** *always used before a noun* : not rising above surrounding land ▪ They have a home in the *low* country. ▪ The houses are built on *low* ground. — opposite HIGH **e** : cut far down at the neck ▪ a *low* dress ▪ a dress with a *low* neckline [=a dress with a low-cut neckline]

2 a : less than usual in amount, number, or degree ▪ They were traveling at a *low* (rate of) speed. ▪ temperatures as *low* as 10 below zero ▪ He's being treated for *low* blood pressure. ▪ a *low* dose of medicine ▪ She earns a *low* salary. ▪ a *low*-income family ▪ *low* heat/humidity/temperatures ▪ *low* interest rates ▪ *low* intelligence ▪ Demand for his books has remained *low*. ▪ a *low* price — opposite HIGH **b** : near or at the bottom of a range ▪ Temperatures were in the *low* eighties. ▪ Her salary is in the *low* 40s. [=her salary is between about $40,000 and $45,000] — opposite HIGH **c** : not having enough or the amount needed ▪ Our supply of fuel is ***getting/running low***. ▪ The airplane was ***low on*** fuel. ▪ We're getting/running *low on* coffee. **d** : having less than the usual or average amount of something — often used in combination ▪ a *low-calorie* diet ▪ *low-sodium* foods ▪ a *low-risk* investment — see also LOW IN (below)

3 a : not favorable ▪ He holds them in *low* regard/esteem. = He has a *low* opinion of them. [=he thinks poorly of them; he regards them unfavorably] ▪ *low* hopes/expectations ▪ Everyone was ***in low spirits*** [=*unhappy*] because of the rainy weather. — opposite HIGH **b** : sad or unhappy ▪ She's been feeling pretty *low*. ▪ a *low* mood **c** : not good : below a certain quality or standard ▪ products of *low* quality ▪ He got *low* marks/grades throughout college. ▪ *low* morale ▪ He has pretty *low* standards when it comes to choosing a hotel. ▪ Our vacation ended ***on a low note*** [=it ended in an unpleasant way] when our flight was delayed. ▪ The time we spent waiting at the airport was the ***low point*** [=the least enjoyable part] of our vacation. — opposite HIGH **d** : morally bad ▪ a person of *low* character ▪ *low* behavior ▪ a *low* trick ▪ *low* standards of conduct — opposite HIGH

4 : below others in power, importance, etc. ▪ Losing weight is a *low* priority for him. = Losing weight is *low* on his list of priorities. ▪ officials of *low* rank — see also LOWER, LOW-RANKING

5 a : not loud : SOFT ▪ a *low* whisper ▪ a *low* moan ▪ They were speaking in *low* voices. [=they were speaking quietly] **b** : near the bottom of a range of sounds ▪ a singer with a *low* [=*deep*] voice = a singer with a *low*-pitched voice : occurring near the bottom of the musical scale ▪ a *low* note — opposite HIGH

6 a : not strong or forceful ▪ *low* winds **b** : not bright ▪ plants that grow well in *low* light **c** : not hot ▪ The sauce is best when cooked slowly over *low* heat. ▪ She uses the iron on a *low* setting when she is working with delicate fabrics.

7 : having qualities that do not appeal to intelligent people ▪ a *low* style of writing ▪ *low* humor ▪ *low* art — opposite HIGH

8 *of a river, stream, etc.* : having less water than usual ▪ The river is *low*. — opposite HIGH

low in : containing a small amount of (something) ▪ Foods

that are *low in* sodium/fat/calories. ▪ Her diet is *low in* fat/carbohydrates.

– **low•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

²low *adv* **low•er**; **-est**

1 : at or to a low place or level ▪ The village is nestled *low* in the foothills. ▪ The plane circled *low* over the airport. ▪ He aimed his punches *low*. ▪ a *low*-flying airplane ▪ I put the larger books *lower* down and the smaller books higher up.

2 a : in or to a low or poor condition ▪ a family ***brought low*** by misfortune **b** : at a low rate ▪ Don't value yourself too *low*. ▪ a *low-paid* worker

3 : at a low price ▪ buy *low* and sell high

4 : with a quiet voice : not loudly ▪ speaking *low* [=*softly*]

high and low see ²HIGH

lie low see ¹LIE

³low *noun, pl* **lows**

1 [*count*] : a low point or level ▪ Prices are at an all-time/record *low*. ▪ The dollar has fallen to a new *low* against the Euro. ▪ Have the media reached/hit a new *low* in bad taste? ▪ The *low* [=lowest temperature] last night was 25. ▪ The forecast is for showers with *lows* in the 40s. ▪ He talked about the ***highs and lows*** [=the good parts and bad parts] of his college years.

2 [*noncount*] *US* : a gear that is used for slow speeds in a vehicle ▪ He shifted into *low*. — called also (*US*) *low gear*

3 [*count*] *weather* : an area of low atmospheric pressure ▪ A strong *low* is expected to bring cloudy skies tomorrow.

⁴low *verb* **lows**; **lowed**; **low•ing** [*no obj*] *literary* : to make the low sound of a cow : MOO ▪ *lowing* cattle

low•ball /ˈloʊˌbɑːl/ *verb* **-balls**; **-balled**; **-ball•ing** [+ *obj*] *US*

1 : to trick or deceive (someone) by saying that the price or cost of something is lower than it really is ▪ It became clear that the contractor had *lowballed* us on the cost of materials.

2 : to give a very low or unfairly low offer to (someone) ▪ Management *lowballed* him in contract negotiations.

low beam *noun, pl* ~ **beams** *US* : the setting of a vehicle's headlights that makes the least bright light [*noncount*] The car's headlights were on *low beam*. [*plural*] Turn on your *low beams*. — compare HIGH BEAM

low blow *noun, pl* ~ **blows** [*count*]

1 *boxing* : an illegal punch that hits a boxer below the waist

2 : an action or comment that is very hurtful and unfair ▪ Firing her on her birthday was really a *low blow*.

low•brow /ˈloʊˌbraʊ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *often disapproving* : not interested in serious art, literature, ideas, etc. ▪ The movie's humor is clearly meant for a *lowbrow* audience. : relating to or intended for people who are not interested in serious art, literature, ideas, etc. ▪ *lowbrow* humor ▪ a *lowbrow* comedy — compare HIGHBROW, MIDDLEBROW

– **lowbrow** *noun, pl* **-brows** [*count*] ▪ Critics have dismissed him as a *lowbrow*.

low–carb *adj* : containing or having fewer carbohydrates than usual ▪ *low-carb* foods ▪ a *low-carb* diet

low–class *adj* **low•er–class**; **low•est–class** [*also more* ~; *most* ~] : LOWER-CLASS ▪ a *low-class* neighborhood

low–cut *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *of women's clothing* : having the opening around the neck shaped in a way that shows the top of the chest ▪ She was wearing a *low-cut* dress/blouse.

low•down /ˈloʊˌdaʊn/ *noun*

the lowdown : important information or facts about something ▪ Reporters are trying to ***get the lowdown on*** what caused the accident. [=trying to find out the truth about what caused the accident] ▪ He ***gave me the lowdown about*** the company's vice president.

low–down /ˈloʊˌdaʊn/ *adj, always used before a noun* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *informal* : morally bad : dishonest and unfair ▪ He's just a *low-down*, good-for-nothing liar!

low–end /ˈloʊˌɛnd/ *adj* **low•er–end**; **low•est–end** [*also more* ~; *most* ~] *US* : lower in price and quality than most others ▪ This is a *low-end* [=*inexpensive*] camera without the extra features of more expensive models.

¹low•er /ˈlowɚ/ *adj*

1 *always used before a noun* **a** : located below another or others of the same kind ▪ her *lower* jaw/lip ▪ his *lower* extremities/limbs [=his legs and feet] ▪ the ship's upper and *lower* decks **b** : located toward the bottom part of something ▪ The message appeared on the *lower* portion of the screen. ▪ She felt a pain in her *lower* leg/back. [=the lower part of her leg/back] ▪ the mountain's upper and *lower* slopes **c** : not high above the ground ▪ The forecast is for strong winds at *lower* elevations.

2 : located toward the south ▪ in the *lower* and higher latitudes ▪ the *lower* and upper peninsulas

3 : below another or others in position, rank, or order ▪ higher and *lower* courts

4 : less advanced or developed ▪ higher and *lower* animals

²low•er /ˈlowɚ/ *verb* **-ers**; **-ered**; **-er•ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to make (something or someone) lower: such as **a** : to cause (someone or something) to move to a lower position ▪ He slowly *lowered* himself into the chair. ▪ *lower* a flag ▪ *lower* the window ▪ The sailors *lowered* a life raft (down) to the people in the water. ▪ She ***lowered her eyes***. [=she looked down] **b** : to reduce the loudness of (something) ▪ Please *lower* your voice. [=please speak more quietly] **c** : to reduce the value or amount of (something) ▪ Fuel prices have been *lowered* in recent weeks. ▪ A combination of diet and exercise can help to *lower* your cholesterol.

2 [*no obj*] : to become lower : DECREASE ▪ Prices have *lowered*. [=(more commonly) *fallen, gone down*] ▪ The property has *lowered* [=*fallen*] in value.

lower the bar see ¹BAR

lower yourself : to do something that causes people to have less respect for you : to degrade yourself ▪ I won't *lower myself* to respond to these accusations. [=I won't respond because I would be degrading myself if I did]

– compare ³LOWER

– **lowering** *noun, pl* **-ings** [*count, noncount*] ▪ a significant/slight *lowering* [=*reduction*] of cholesterol

³low•er /ˈlawɚ/ *verb* **-ers**; **-ered**; **-er•ing** [*no obj*] *literary, of the sky or clouds* : to become dark and threatening ▪ Clouds *lowered* overhead. — compare ²LOWER

– **lowering** *adj* ▪ a gray, *lowering* sky

low•er•case /ˌlowɚˈkeɪs/ *adj* : having as its typical form a, b, c rather than A, B, C : not capital ▪ *lowercase* letters — compare UPPERCASE

– **lowercase** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ letters written in *lowercase*

lower class *noun, pl* ~ **classes** [*count*] : a social class that is below the middle class and that has the lowest status in a society ▪ a member of the *lower class/classes* — compare MIDDLE CLASS, UNDERCLASS, UPPER CLASS, WORKING CLASS

low•er–class /ˌlowɚˈklæs, *Brit* ˌləwəˈklɑːs/ *adj* : not fancy, wealthy, or expensive ▪ a *lower-class* theater ▪ *lower-class* families — compare HIGH-CLASS

lowest common denominator *noun* [*noncount*]

1 *mathematics* : the smallest number that can be divided exactly by all the numbers below the lines in a group of two or more fractions — called also (*US*) *least common denominator*

2 *disapproving* — used to say that the quality of something is poor because it is designed or intended to appeal to the largest possible number of people ▪ The movie appeals to the *lowest common denominator*. ▪ Television programming has sunk to the *lowest common denominator*.

low–fat *adj* : containing or having less fat than usual ▪ a *low-fat* diet ▪ *low-fat* dairy products

low gear *noun* [*noncount*] *US* : ³LOW 2

low–grade /ˈloʊˈgreɪd/ *adj*

1 : of poor quality ▪ *low-grade* food

2 : not very strong or severe ▪ a *low-grade* fever

low–key /ˈloʊˈkiː/ *also* **low–keyed** /ˈloʊˈkiːd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : quiet and relaxed : not very forceful, emotional, or noticeable ▪ a politician with a *low-key* style ▪ The party was a *low-key* affair. ▪ a *low-key* approach to management

low•land /ˈloʊlənd/ *noun, pl* **-lands** [*count*] : an area where the land is at, near, or below the level of the sea and where there are not usually mountains or large hills — usually plural ▪ a village in the *lowlands* — compare HIGHLAND

– **lowland** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ a *lowland* region/village – **low•land•er** /ˈloʊləndɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ rivalries between highlanders and *lowlanders*

low–lev•el /ˈloʊˈlɛvəl/ *adj*

1 : of low importance or rank ▪ The changes will mostly involve *low-level* jobs/workers.

2 : not strong : low in strength or degree ▪ *low-level* lighting

low•life /ˈloʊˌlaɪf/ *noun, pl* **-lifes** [*count*] *US, informal* : a bad person : a person of low moral character ▪ a cowardly *lowlife* ▪ hanging around with a bunch of *lowlifes*

– **lowlife** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ a *lowlife* bum

low•light /ˈloʊˌlaɪt/ *noun, pl* **-lights** [*count*] *US* : something (such as an event or a detail) that is very unpleasant or dull : the worst part of something ▪ That meal turned out to be one of the *lowlights* of our vacation. — compare HIGHLIGHT

low•ly /ˈloʊli/ *adj* **low•li•er**; **-est** : low in rank, position, or importance : HUMBLE • He was working as a *lowly* clerk. • He resented his *lowly* status. • her *lowly* origins
– **low•li•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] • the *lowliness* of his status

low–ly•ing /ˈloʊˈlajɪŋ/ *adj*
1 : not far above the level of the sea • *low-lying* land • *low-lying* hills
2 : close to the ground • *low-lying* clouds

low–pitched /ˈloʊˈpɪʧt/ *adj* **low•er–pitched**; **low•est–pitched** [*also more* ~; *most* ~] : making a low sound : LOW • The machine made a *low-pitched* hum. • They talked quietly in *low-pitched* voices.

low–rank•ing *adj, always used before a noun* **low•er–rank•ing**; **low•est–rank•ing** : having a low rank or position • *low-ranking* officials

low–rent /ˈloʊˈrɛnt/ *adj, chiefly US, informal*
1 : not of good quality : cheaply made or done • a *low-rent* movie • They create *low-rent* [=*cheap, inexpensive*] versions of current fashions.
2 : low in moral character or social status • a *low-rent* thug

low–rise /ˈloʊˈraɪz/ *adj*
1 *of a building* : not tall : having few floors or stories • a *low-rise* classroom building
2 : made up of low-rise buildings • a *low-rise* housing development

low–risk *adj*
1 : not likely to result in failure, harm, or injury : not having a lot of risk • *low-risk* investments
2 : less likely than others to get a particular disease, condition, or injury • *low-risk* patients

low season *noun* [*noncount*] : the time of year when a place is least busy or popular : OFF-SEASON

low–slung /ˈloʊˌslʌŋ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : low and close to the ground or floor • She drives a *low-slung* convertible. • a *low-slung* sofa

low–spir•it•ed /ˈloʊˈspirətəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : feeling sad or depressed • I've never seen her looking so *low-spirited*.

low–tech /ˈloʊˈtɛk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not using new electronic devices and technology : technologically simple • *low-tech* industries • We found a *low-tech* solution to our problem. • The film's special effects were very *low-tech*.

low tide *noun, pl* ~ **tides** [*count, noncount*] : the tide when the water is at its lowest point • You can walk across the sand bar at *low tide*. — compare HIGH TIDE

lox /ˈlɑːks/ *noun* [*noncount*] *chiefly US* : smoked salmon • bagels and *lox*

loy•al /ˈlojəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having or showing complete and constant support for someone or something : FAITHFUL • The team has many *loyal* fans. • a *loyal* customer/supporter • a *loyal* friend • She has provided the company with many years of *loyal* service. • fiercely/steadfastly *loyal* — often + *to* • She has remained/stayed *loyal to* her old friends. — opposite DISLOYAL
– **loy•al•ly** *adv* • has served *loyally* for many years

loy•al•ist /ˈlojəlɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*]
1 : a person who is loyal to a political cause, government, or leader • a group of ***party loyalists*** [=people who are loyal members of a political party]
2 : a person from Northern Ireland who believes that Northern Ireland should remain part of the United Kingdom — opposite REPUBLICAN

loy•al•ty /ˈlojəlti/ *noun, pl* **-ties**
1 [*noncount*] : the quality or state of being loyal • the *loyalty* of the team's fans — often + *to* • No one questions his *loyalty to* the cause.
2 [*count*] : a loyal feeling : a feeling of strong support for someone or something — usually plural • He was torn by conflicting/divided *loyalties*. • They shouldn't allow their decision to be influenced by political *loyalties*.
brand loyalty see ¹BRAND

loz•enge /ˈlɑːzn̩ʤ/ *noun, pl* **-eng•es** [*count*]
1 : a small candy that usually contains medicine • a throat/cough *lozenge*
2 : a shape that is formed by four equal straight lines and that has two opposite angles that are smaller than a right angle and two opposite angles that are larger than a right angle • a scarf decorated with a pattern of *lozenges* [=*diamonds*]

LP /ˌɛlˈpiː/ *noun, pl* **LP's** *or* **LPs** [*count*] : a phonograph record designed to be played at 33⅓ revolutions per minute — called also *long-playing record*

LPN /ˌɛlˌpiːˈɛn/ *noun, pl* **LPN's** *or* **LPNs** [*count*] *US* : LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE

LSD /ˌɛlˌɛsˈdiː/ *noun* [*noncount*] : an illegal drug that causes people to see and hear things that do not really exist

Lt. *abbr* lieutenant

Ltd. *abbr* limited — used in business names • Roundy & Son *Ltd.*

lu•au /ˈluːˌaʊ/ *noun, pl* **-aus** [*count*] : a Hawaiian feast

lube /ˈluːb/ *noun, pl* **lubes** [*count*] *informal*
1 : the act of putting lubricant on the moving parts of a vehicle • He took his car to the garage for a *lube* and oil change. • a *lube* job
2 : LUBRICANT 1 • a high-quality *lube*

lu•bri•cant /ˈluːbrɪkənt/ *noun, pl* **-cants**
1 [*count, noncount*] : a substance (such as grease or oil) that causes something (such as a machine part) to be slippery and to move more smoothly • The car's axles need more *lubricant*.
2 [*count*] : something that makes it easier for people to work or talk with each other • using humor as a social *lubricant*

lu•bri•cate /ˈluːbrəˌkeɪt/ *verb* **-cates**; **-cat•ed**; **-cat•ing** [+ *obj*] : to make (something) smooth or slippery : to apply a lubricant to (something, such as a machine or a part of a machine) • *lubricate* a car engine • *lubricate* a hinge
– **lu•bri•ca•tion** /ˌluːbrəˈkeɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*noncount*] a hinge that needs *lubrication* [*count*] repeated *lubrications* of the engine

lu•cid /ˈluːsəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : very clear and easy to understand • a *lucid* explanation • *lucid* prose
2 : able to think clearly • The patient has remained *lucid* [=*clearheaded*] throughout his illness. • He is able to recognize his wife in his *lucid* moments.
– **lu•cid•i•ty** /luˈsɪdəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] • the *lucidity* of the explanation – **lu•cid•ly** *adv* • The problem was *lucidly* explained.

lu•cerne /luˈsɚn/ *noun* [*noncount*] *Brit* : ALFALFA

Lu•ci•fer /ˈluːsəfɚ/ *noun* [*singular*] — used as a name of the Devil

¹luck /ˈlʌk/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : the things that happen to a person because of chance : the accidental way things happen without being planned • Our meeting happened by (pure) *luck*. [=*chance*] • Her business has been doing poorly, but she's hoping that her *luck* will change. [=she's hoping that she will begin to have success] • We had good/bad *luck* fishing. • He's been having nothing but bad/rotten/hard/tough/lousy *luck*. • He cursed his *luck*. ✧ When ***luck is on your side*** or ***luck is with you***, your luck is good. When ***luck is against you***, your luck is bad. • Our car broke down on the road, but *luck was on our side* and there was a garage nearby. • I arrived a little late and *luck was against me*: the last ticket had just been sold.
2 a : good fortune : good luck • He succeeded through hard work and a little *luck*. • We need a bit of *luck*. • If our *luck* holds [=if our luck continues to be good], we should be able to arrive on time. • Before her husband left for his job interview, she gave him a kiss ***for luck***. [=so that he would have good luck] • I can't believe they gave the job to that guy. ***Some people/guys have all the luck***. [=some people are very lucky] • The success of his first restaurant was just ***beginner's luck***. [=he succeeded because he was lucky, as beginners sometimes are] • ***With (any) luck*** [=if we are lucky, if what we want to happen does happen] there'll still be some tickets left when we arrive. • By a ***stroke of luck***, there were still a few tickets left when we arrived. **b** : success in doing or getting something • Have you had any *luck* [=*success*] (in) finding a new apartment? • "I've been looking for a new apartment." "Any *luck*?" "No, not yet." • I've had no *luck* in finding a new apartment. • He had no better *luck* than I did.
as luck would have it — used to say that something happened because of good or bad luck • Our car broke down on the road, but *as luck would have it* [=*as it turned out*], there was a garage nearby. • I arrived a little late and, *as luck would have it*, the last ticket had just been sold.
bad luck *or Brit* ***hard luck*** — used in speech to show sympathy for someone who has failed or has been disappointed • "I didn't get the job." "*Bad luck*!"
best of luck *informal* — used to say that you hope someone will succeed • We're sorry that you're leaving. *Best of luck* to you in your new job. — see also WISH SOMEONE (THE BEST OF) LUCK (below)
better luck next time — used to say that you hope someone

will have more success in doing or trying something in the future • I'm sorry to hear that you didn't get the job. *Better luck next time.*

down on your luck ✧ When you are *down on your luck*, your luck is bad. • She's been *down on her luck* lately. [=she has been suffering through a difficult time lately]

good luck 1 — used to say that you hope someone will succeed • We're sorry that you're leaving. *Good luck* in your new job. 2 *informal* — used to say that you think what someone is trying to do is difficult or impossible • "I'm planning to ask for a raise." "Oh, really? Well, *good luck* (to you)." [=I think it is unlikely that you will get a raise]

in luck ✧ When you are *in luck*, something that you want to do is possible. • "Are there any tickets?" "You're *in luck*. We still have a few more left."

just my luck *informal* — used to say that bad or unpleasant things often happen to you because you are unlucky • The last ticket was sold a minute before I got there—*just my luck.*

Lady Luck *or* **lady luck** — used to refer to luck as if it were a woman • He blamed his problems on *lady luck.*

no such luck *informal* — used to say that you could not do or have something you wanted • We hoped we could still get tickets, but *no such luck*—they had all been sold.

out of luck ✧ When you are *out of luck*, something that you want to do is not possible. • We hoped we could still get tickets, but we were *out of luck*—they had all been sold.

push your luck *or US* **press your luck** ✧ If you are *pushing/pressing your luck*, you are taking more risks than you should or you are asking for more favors than you should. • "Can I have more time to finish the job?" "Don't *press/push your luck.* You've already been given extra time."

the luck of the draw — used to say that the result of something cannot be controlled and depends on chance • The weather may be good or bad that day—it all depends on *the luck of the draw.*

tough luck *informal* ✧ *Tough luck* can be used in speech to show sympathy for someone who has failed or has been disappointed, but it is more commonly used in an ironic way to show that you do not feel sympathy for someone. • "I need more time to finish the job." "*Tough luck.* You knew the job was supposed to be done by today."

try your luck ✧ To *try your luck* at something is to do something in the hope that you will succeed. • He's *trying his luck* at starting his own restaurant.

wish someone (the best of) luck : to say that you hope someone will have success • I *wish you (the best of) luck* in your new job. • I have a job interview this morning. *Wish me luck!*

– **luck•less** /ˈlʌkləs/ *adj* • a *luckless* loser

²luck *verb* **lucks**; **lucked**; **luck•ing**

luck into [*phrasal verb*] **luck into (something)** *US, informal* : to find or get (something) because of good luck • She *lucked into* a good job.

luck out [*phrasal verb*] *US, informal* : to have good luck • We arrived late but we *lucked out*—there were still a few tickets left.

luck•i•ly /ˈlʌkəli/ *adv* — used to say that something good or lucky has happened • *Luckily* [=*fortunately*] no one was hurt. [=it was lucky that no one was hurt]

lucky /ˈlʌki/ *adj* **luck•i•er**; **-est**

1 : having good luck : FORTUNATE • We're *lucky* that things turned out as well as they did. • You're *lucky* to have a choice. = You're *lucky* that you have a choice. • I feel *lucky* to be alive. • I count/consider myself *lucky* to know you. • Aren't you the *lucky* one! [=you are a lucky person] • "I managed to get a ticket!" "*Lucky* you! They were all sold out by the time I got there." • Tickets were available only for the *lucky* few. • The *lucky* winner will be given a brand new car. • I know you'll enjoy the show if you're *lucky* enough to get a ticket. • Congratulations on getting the job, you **lucky dog/devil**. • (*chiefly US*) He's a **lucky stiff**. [=he's very lucky] • He was always **lucky in love**. [=he was always lucky in his romantic relationships]

2 : producing a good result by chance : resulting from good luck • He scored a goal on a *lucky* shot. • Their meeting was a *lucky* accident. • We got a *lucky* break. • It was a *lucky* coincidence that we were both there at the same time. • a *lucky* find/guess • It's *lucky* for us that the weather is so good. = We're *lucky* that the weather is so good. • a *lucky* coin/charm • This must be your **lucky day**. [=a day when something good happens because of good luck] • You should **thank your lucky stars** [=you should be very grateful] that you have a friend like her.

get lucky 1 : to have good luck : to succeed because of good luck • We thought all the tickets might have already been sold, but we *got lucky*—there were still a few left when we arrived. 2 *informal* : to succeed in finding or getting someone to have sex with you • He's hoping to *get lucky* tonight.

third time lucky see ¹THIRD

lucky dip *noun, pl* ~ **dips** [*count*] *Brit* : a game in which people reach into a container filled with small gifts without knowing what gift they will get — compare GRAB BAG

lu•cra•tive /ˈluːkrətɪv/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : producing money or wealth : PROFITABLE • a *lucrative* job/investment • a *lucrative* career/contract • The business has proved to be highly *lucrative.*

– **lu•cra•tive•ly** *adv* • *lucratively* employed

lu•cre /ˈluːkɚ/ *noun* [*noncount*] *disapproving + often humorous* : money or profit • the lure of *lucre* — often used in the phrase *filthy lucre* • He compromised his art for the pursuit of *filthy lucre.*

lu•di•crous /ˈluːdəkrəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : very foolish : RIDICULOUS • *ludicrous* ideas/thoughts • a *ludicrous* statement/suggestion • It's *ludicrous* [=*absurd*] to think that he can solve these problems himself.

– **lu•di•crous•ly** *adv* • a *ludicrously* improbable idea – **lu•di•crous•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

¹lug /ˈlʌg/ *verb* **lugs**; **lugged**; **lug•ging** [+ *obj*] : to pull or carry (something) with great effort • She had to *lug* her suitcases out to the car by herself. • I was *lugging* a heavy camera around all day.

²lug *noun, pl* **lugs** [*count*]

1 : a part (such as a handle) that sticks out like an ear

2 *US, informal + humorous* : a large and awkward or stupid man • He's just a big *lug.* — often used in way that shows affection • It's great to see you again, you big *lug.*

3 *US* : LUG NUT

luge /ˈluːʒ/ *noun, pl* **lug•es** [*count*] : a small sled used for racing down an ice track

– **lug•er** /ˈluːʒɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

lug•gage /ˈlʌgɪʤ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the bags and suitcases that a person carries when traveling : BAGGAGE • Passengers are limited to two items of carry-on *luggage.*

luggage rack *noun, pl* ~ **racks** [*count*]

1 : a shelf for storing luggage on a train, bus, etc.

2 *US* : a frame on the roof of a car for carrying luggage — called also *roof rack*

lug nut *noun, pl* ~ **nuts** [*count*] *US* : a heavy piece of metal that is screwed on to the bolts that hold a wheel on a vehicle

lu•gu•bri•ous /luˈguːbrijəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : full of sadness or sorrow : very sad especially in an exaggerated or insincere way • a comic actor known for his *lugubrious* manner • wearing a *lugubrious* expression

– **lu•gu•bri•ous•ly** *adv* • sighing *lugubriously* – **lu•gu•bri•ous•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

luke•warm /ˈluːkˈwoɚm/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : slightly warm • a *lukewarm* [=*tepid*] bath • I hate drinking *lukewarm* coffee.

2 : not enthusiastic : not having or showing energy or excitement • Our plan got a *lukewarm* reception. • The producer was *lukewarm* about her script.

– **luke•warm•ly** *adv* • They reacted/responded *lukewarmly* to our plan.

¹lull /ˈlʌl/ *verb* **lulls**; **lulled**; **lull•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to cause (someone) to fall asleep or become sleepy • The music *lulled* him to sleep. — often used as *(be) lulled* • He *was lulled* to sleep by her soothing voice. • *lulled* by the gentle rocking of the boat

2 : to cause (someone) to feel safe and relaxed instead of careful and alert — + *into* • He *lulls* you *into* believing his promises. [=he tricks you into believing his promises by making you feel that he can be trusted] — often used as *(be) lulled* • She *was lulled into* a false sense of security.

²lull *noun, pl* **lulls** [*count*] : a brief time when an action or activity stops — usually + *in* • There were several *lulls in* the conversation. • a *lull in* the fighting/action • a *lull in* the storm

lul•la•by /ˈlʌləˌbaɪ/ *noun, pl* **-bies** [*count*] : a song used to help a child fall asleep

lum•ba•go /ˌlʌmˈbeɪgoʊ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : pain in the lower back • experiencing an attack of *lumbago*

lum•bar /ˈlʌmbɚ/ *adj, always used before a noun, medical*

: relating to or lying near the lower back ▪ This seat provides good *lumbar* support. ▪ the *lumbar* region

[1]lum•ber /ˈlʌmbɚ/ *verb* **-bers**; **-bered**; **-ber•ing** [*no obj*] : to move in a slow or awkward way ▪ The parade *lumbers* through town once a year. ▪ We saw an elephant *lumbering* along the road. ▪ trucks *lumbering* [=*rumbling*] down the street ▪ an animal with a *lumbering* gait — sometimes used figuratively ▪ The economy continues to *lumber* along. ▪ a big, *lumbering* [=slow and awkward] bureaucracy — compare [3]LUMBER

[2]lumber *noun* [*noncount*]

1 *US* : wooden boards or logs that have been sawed and cut for use ▪ trees turned into *lumber* [=*timber*] ▪ He works for a *lumber* company. ▪ the *lumber* industry — see also LUMBERING

2 *Brit* : large objects that are no longer used or wanted ▪ had a clearout of all his old *lumber* and finally got rid of it

[3]lumber *verb* **-bers**; **-bered**; **-ber•ing**

lumber with [*phrasal verb*] ***lumber (someone) with (something)*** *Brit, informal* : to cause (someone) to have (something unwanted or unpleasant) ▪ His classmates *lumbered him with* [=saddled him with] an unfortunate nickname. — often used as *(be) lumbered with* ▪ He's *been lumbered with* an unfortunate nickname.

– compare [1]LUMBER

lum•ber•ing /ˈlʌmbərɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] *US* : the activity or business of making lumber from logs ▪ There has been an increase in *lumbering* in this area. ▪ the *lumbering* industry

lum•ber•jack /ˈlʌmbɚˌʤæk/ *noun, pl* **-jacks** [*count*] : a person whose job is to cut down trees for wood : LOGGER

lumber room *noun, pl* ~ **rooms** [*count*] *Brit* : a room for storing old pieces of furniture and other things that are not being used

lum•ber•yard /ˈlʌmbɚˌjɑɚd/ *noun, pl* **-yards** [*count*] *US* : a place where wooden boards are kept for sale ▪ He went to the *lumberyard* [=(*Brit*) *timber yard*] to buy wood.

lu•mi•nary /ˈluːməˌneri, *Brit* ˈluːmənəri/ *noun, pl* **-nar•ies** [*count*] : a very famous or successful person : CELEBRITY ▪ *luminaries* of the art world

lu•mi•nes•cence /ˌluːməˈnɛsn̩s/ *noun* [*noncount*] *technical* : the creation of light by processes that do not involve heat; *also* : the light created ▪ the *luminescence* of the watch

– **lu•mi•nes•cent** /ˌluːməˈnɛsn̩t/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ *luminescent* insects ▪ a *luminescent* watch dial

lu•mi•nous /ˈluːmənəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : producing or seeming to produce light : SHINING ▪ *luminous* stars/galaxies ▪ I saw the cat's *luminous* eyes in my car's headlights. ▪ a watch with a *luminous* dial — often used figuratively ▪ the *luminous* clarity of her writing ▪ a *luminous* essay

2 a : filled with light : brightly lit ▪ The room was *luminous* with sunlight. **b** : very bright in color ▪ a *luminous* blue

– **lu•mi•nos•i•ty** /ˌluːməˈnɑːsəti/ *noun* [*singular*] ▪ measuring a star's *luminosity* ▪ the *luminosity* of a typical galaxy

– **lu•mi•nous•ly** *adv* ▪ colors gleaming *luminously* in the sunlight ▪ a *luminously* clear writing style

[1]lump /ˈlʌmp/ *noun, pl* **lumps** [*count*]

1 : a small piece or mass of something ▪ a *lump* of coal ▪ turning a *lump* of clay into a beautiful pot ▪ He likes two *lumps* [=*cubes*] of sugar with his coffee.

2 : an area of swelling or growth on your body ▪ a cancerous *lump* ▪ He got a *lump* on his head after bumping into the doorway.

a lump in your throat : a tight feeling in your throat that you get when you are about to start crying or when you are trying not to cry ▪ The movie's final scene left me with a *lump in my throat*. = I got *a lump in my throat* when I watched the film's final scene.

take your lumps *or* ***take a lot of lumps*** *US, informal* : to be badly beaten or hurt ▪ He *took a lot of lumps* as a kid growing up in the city. — usually used figuratively ▪ Their first album *took its lumps* from the critics. [=it was harshly criticized] ▪ The team has *taken its lumps* [=it has lost many games] this year, but their play has improved recently.

[2]lump *verb* **lumps**; **lumped**; **lump•ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to put (people or things) *together* or *in* the same group ▪ He made the mistake of *lumping* all their ideas *together* as foolish. ▪ She often gets *lumped in* with other modern artists even though her work is different from theirs.

2 [*no obj*] : to form lumps : to become lumpy ▪ You'll need to stir the mixture constantly to keep it from *lumping*.

lump it *informal* : to accept or allow something unpleasant or unwanted — usually used in the phrase ***like it or lump it*** ▪ *Like it or lump it*, the new law goes into effect today. [=it goes into effect whether you like it or not]

lump•ish /ˈlʌmpɪʃ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : heavy and dull or awkward ▪ a slow-witted, *lumpish* man

– **lump•ish•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

lump sum *noun, pl* ~ **sums** [*count*] : an amount of money that is paid at one time : a single sum of money ▪ The bonus is paid out in a *lump sum*. [=it is paid out all at once] ▪ a *lump-sum* payment

lumpy /ˈlʌmpi/ *adj* **lump•i•er**; **-est** : having lumps : full of lumps ▪ a *lumpy* mattress ▪ *lumpy* mashed potatoes

– **lump•i•ness** /ˈlʌmpinəs/ *noun* [*noncount*]

lu•na•cy /ˈluːnəsi/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 a : extreme foolishness ▪ Quitting her job was an act of sheer/pure *lunacy*. [=*madness*] **b** : something that is very foolish ▪ Quitting her job was *lunacy*. ▪ It would be *lunacy* [=*madness*] to try driving home in this storm. ▪ His idea was considered total/sheer/complete *lunacy*.

2 *old-fashioned* : extreme mental illness : INSANITY

lu•nar /ˈluːnɚ/ *adj, always used before a noun* : of or relating to the moon ▪ a *lunar* rock ▪ the *lunar* surface ▪ a *lunar* eclipse ▪ a ***lunar month*** [=the time between one new moon and the next, one full moon and the next, etc.]

[1]lu•na•tic /ˈluːnəˌtɪk/ *noun, pl* **-tics** [*count*] *informal*

1 *old-fashioned + sometimes offensive* : an insane person ▪ a murderous *lunatic* ▪ He was raving like a *lunatic*.

2 *informal* : a person who behaves in a very foolish way ▪ I almost got into an accident with some *lunatic* on the highway. ▪ My boss is a complete *lunatic*. ▪ He was a *lunatic* out on the ski slopes. [=he was an extremely daring, reckless, or aggressive skier]

[2]lunatic *adj, always used before a noun*

1 a *old-fashioned + sometimes offensive* : designed for insane people ▪ a *lunatic* asylum **b** : not sane ▪ a *lunatic* [=*crazy*] genius

2 : wildly foolish ▪ He hatched a *lunatic* plot to overthrow the government. ▪ another of his *lunatic* ideas ▪ *lunatic* behavior ▪ a *lunatic* risk

lunatic fringe *noun* [*singular*] : the members of a political or social group or movement who have the most extreme or foolish ideas ▪ His nomination is opposed by the party's *lunatic fringe*.

[1]lunch /ˈlʌnʧ/ *noun, pl* **lunch•es** : a light meal eaten in the middle of the day [*count*] I like to eat/have a healthy *lunch* every day. ▪ a company *lunch* [=*luncheon*] ▪ We took a picnic *lunch* to the park. ▪ They've brought their own *lunches* with them. ▪ We discussed the idea over a ***working/business lunch***. [=a lunch during which people talk about business matters] [*noncount*] What's for *lunch*? ▪ I had/ate just a sandwich for *lunch*. ▪ Where do you want to go for *lunch*? = Where do you want to eat/have *lunch*? ▪ I bought her some *lunch*. ▪ She often sits alone at *lunch*. [=while eating lunch] ▪ We discussed the idea over *lunch*. [=during lunch; while eating lunch] ▪ I offered to take her ***out to lunch***. [=to take her to a restaurant for lunch] ▪ ***lunch hour*** [=the time when the people in a school or company eat lunch] ✧ When people ***do lunch*** they have lunch together. This is an informal phrase that is often associated with people in business. ▪ Let's *do lunch* sometime.

eat/have someone or something for lunch *or* ***eat someone's or something's lunch*** *US, informal* : to defeat someone or something very badly ▪ The big hardware chain was *eating* the local store's *lunch*. [=the big chain was taking a lot of business from the local store]

lose your lunch *US slang* : to throw up : VOMIT ▪ I felt like I was about to *lose my lunch*.

no free lunch ✧ The expression ***there is no free lunch*** or ***there is no such thing as a free lunch*** means that it is not possible to get something that is desired or valuable without having to pay for it in some way.

out to lunch *informal* : not aware of what is really happening : too strange or confused to notice or understand what is really happening ▪ That guy acts like he's *out to lunch*.

[2]lunch *verb* **lunches**; **lunched**; **lunch•ing** [*no obj*] : to eat lunch ▪ She often *lunches* in the park. ▪ We *lunched* on leftovers.

– **lunch•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

lunch box *noun, pl* ~ **boxes** [*count*] : a box in which a lunch can be kept and carried to school, work, etc.

lunch break *noun, pl* ~ **breaks** [*count*] : the time when people stop working or studying to have lunch : LUNCH

HOUR ▪ Let's go out during our *lunch break*.

lunch counter *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] *US*
1 : a long counter at which lunches are sold
2 : LUNCHEONETTE

lun•cheon /ˈlʌnʧən/ *noun, pl* **-cheons** [*count*] : a usually formal lunch that occurs as part of a meeting or for entertaining a guest ▪ a company *luncheon* ▪ a ladies' *luncheon*

lun•cheon•ette /ˌlʌnʧəˈnɛt/ *noun, pl* **-ettes** [*count*] *US* : a small restaurant where lunches are served

luncheon meat *noun, pl* ~ **meats** [*count, noncount*] : cooked meat (such as sliced meat or canned meat) that is usually eaten cold ▪ sliced ham, turkey, and other *luncheon meats* — called also (*US*) *lunch meat*

lunch hour *noun, pl* ~ **hours** [*count*] : the time when people stop working or studying to have lunch ▪ She likes to go for a walk during her *lunch hour*.

lunch•room /ˈlʌnʧˌruːm/ *noun, pl* **-rooms** [*count*] *US*
1 : a large room in a school or business where people eat lunch
2 : LUNCHEONETTE

lunch•time /ˈlʌnʧˌtaɪm/ *noun, pl* **-times** : the time in the middle of the day when people usually eat lunch [*noncount*] It was nearly *lunchtime* when we got there. [*count*] They enjoyed the *lunchtimes* they spent together.

lung /ˈlʌŋ/ *noun, pl* **lungs** [*count*] : either one of the two organs that people and animals use to breathe air ▪ He filled his *lungs* with the clean. fresh air. ▪ *lung* disease/cancer ▪ She shouted ***at the top of her lungs*** [=she shouted as loudly as possible] — see picture at HUMAN

[1]lunge /ˈlʌnʤ/ *noun, pl* **lung•es** [*count*] : a sudden forward movement ▪ He made a *lunge* at me with his knife. ▪ He made a desperate *lunge* for the ball.

[2]lunge *verb* **lunges**; **lunged**; **lung•ing** [*no obj*] : to move or reach forward in a sudden, forceful way ▪ He *lunged* at me with his knife. ▪ She *lunged* across the table. ▪ The crocodile *lunged* at its prey. ▪ The dog *lunged* for his throat.

lu•pus /ˈluːpəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : a disease that affects the nervous system, joints, and skin

[1]lurch /ˈlɚʧ/ *verb* **lurch•es**; **lurched**; **lurch•ing** [*no obj*]
1 : to make a sudden sideways or forward motion ▪ The boat *lurched* in the rough seas. ▪ The bus *lurched* along/down the highway. ▪ The jeep *lurched* to a stop.
2 : to move or walk in an awkward or unsteady way ▪ She lost her balance and *lurched* into the counter. ▪ He *lurched* to his feet. — often used figuratively ▪ Investors worry as the economy *lurches* towards recession. ▪ He always seems to be *lurching* from one crisis to another. ▪ The movie *lurches* from one car chase scene to the next.

[2]lurch *noun, pl* **lurches** [*count*] : a sudden sideways or forward movement ▪ You could feel the bumps and *lurches* as the bus moved down the highway. ▪ The train gave a *lurch* as it left the station. = The train left the station with a *lurch*.
— compare [3]LURCH

[3]lurch *noun*
leave (someone) in the lurch : to leave someone without help or protection when it is needed ▪ His advisers *left him in the lurch* when he needed them the most.
– compare [2]LURCH

[1]lure /ˈlʊɚ/ *verb, always followed by an adverb or preposition* **lures**; **lured**; **lur•ing** [+ *obj*] : to cause or persuade (a person or an animal) to go somewhere or to do something by offering some pleasure or gain ▪ advertisers trying to *lure* [=*attract*] a younger audience to their products ▪ They *lured* the bear out of its den. ▪ The suburbs are *luring* middle-class families away from the city. ▪ The police *lured* him back to the scene of the crime. ▪ Explorers were *lured* to the area by tales of a city of gold. ▪ An attractive window display can help to *lure* shoppers into the store.

[2]lure *noun, pl* **lures** [*count*]
1 : an appealing or attractive quality — usually singular ▪ Tourists are drawn to the area by the *lure* of the Arizona sunshine. ▪ The birds find the *lure* of the feeder irresistible. ▪ He was unable to resist the *lure* of easy money.
2 : a device used for attracting and catching animals, birds, or especially fish

lu•rid /ˈlʊrɪd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *disapproving*
1 : causing shock or disgust : involving sex or violence in a way that is meant to be shocking ▪ *lurid* [=*sensational*] tabloid headlines ▪ a *lurid* front-page story ▪ a *lurid* tale of violence and betrayal ▪ the *lurid* [=*gruesome*] details of the crime
2 : shining or glowing with a bright and unpleasant color ▪ a *lurid* neon sign ▪ the *lurid* lighting of a nightclub ▪ The light from the fire cast a *lurid* glow on everything.
– **lu•rid•ly** *adv* ▪ *luridly* sensational headlines ▪ a scene *luridly* lit by smoky sunlight – **lu•rid•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

lurk /ˈlɚk/ *verb* **lurks**; **lurked**; **lurk•ing** [*no obj*]
1 : to be in a hidden place ▪ The cat was *lurking* [=*hiding*] behind the sofa. : to wait in a secret or hidden place especially in order to do something wrong or harmful ▪ She could tell there was someone out there *lurking* in the shadows. — often used figuratively ▪ Trouble *lurks* around every corner. ▪ There is tenderness that *lurks* underneath his tough appearance. ▪ Who knows what evil *lurks* in the hearts of men? ▪ The idea had been *lurking* in her mind for some time.
2 *computers* : to read messages written by other people on the Internet in a newsgroup, chat room, etc., without writing any messages yourself
– **lurk•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

lus•cious /ˈlʌʃəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : having a very appealing taste or smell : DELICIOUS ▪ *luscious* fruits ▪ chocolate cake with a *luscious* whipped cream topping ▪ a *luscious* wine
2 a : richly appealing ▪ a *luscious* [=*delightful*] singing voice **b** *informal* : very physically attractive ▪ an incredibly *luscious* actress
– **lus•cious•ly** *adv* ▪ a *lusciously* creamy cheesecake – **lus•cious•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

[1]lush /ˈlʌʃ/ *adj* **lush•er**; **-est**
1 a : having a lot of full and healthy growth ▪ *lush* grass ▪ *lush* [=*luxuriant*] tropical vegetation ▪ The frequent rainfall encourages the *lush* growth of trees, ferns, and shrubs. **b** : covered with healthy green plants ▪ *lush* green fields/farms/pastures ▪ She always wanted to live on a *lush* Caribbean island. ▪ The hills are *lush* with deep, thick grass.
2 : having a pleasingly rich quality ▪ a *lush* and fruity wine ▪ *lush* color photos ▪ the film's *lush* imagery ▪ a *lush* carpet
– **lush•ly** *adv* ▪ *lushly* planted gardens ▪ a *lushly* [=*lavishly*] illustrated book – **lush•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *lushness* of the surrounding countryside

[2]lush *noun, pl* **lush•es** [*count*] *informal* : a person who is often drunk : DRUNK ▪ He's just an old *lush*.

[1]lust /ˈlʌst/ *noun, pl* **lusts**
1 : a strong feeling of sexual desire [*noncount*] He was consumed by *lust*. ▪ He was motivated more by *lust* than love. [=more by the desire for sex than by affection] [*count*] satisfying their *lusts*
2 : a strong desire *for* something [*singular*] a *lust* [=*craving, desire*] *for* money/adventure ▪ He was driven by a *lust for* power. ▪ a ***lust for life*** [=a strong desire to live a full and rich life] [*noncount*] *Lust for* chocolate drew her into the candy store. — see also BLOODLUST

[2]lust *verb* **lusts**; **lust•ed**; **lust•ing** [*no obj*]
1 : to have a strong sexual desire for someone — usually + *after* ▪ He *lusted after* the prettiest girl in the school. — sometimes + *for* ▪ He had *lusted for* her for years.
2 : to have a strong desire for something — usually + *after* ▪ She's been *lusting after* [=*craving*] that job for many months. — sometimes + *for* ▪ investors *lusting for* profits — sometimes followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ a general who *lusted to command*

lus•ter (*US*) *or Brit* **lus•tre** /ˈlʌstɚ/ *noun* [*singular*]
1 : the shiny quality of a surface that reflects light ▪ the *luster* of polished metal ▪ He polished the silverware for hours trying to restore its *luster*. ▪ the *luster* of her eyes
2 : an appealing, exciting, or admired quality ▪ The trip loses some of its *luster* [=it becomes less appealing or exciting] after you've done it several times. ▪ The scandals have tarnished/dimmed his *luster*. [=damaged his reputation] ▪ the *luster* [=*renown*] of the family's name
– **lus•ter•less** (*US*) *or Brit* **lus•tre•less** *adj* ▪ dull *lusterless* eyes ▪ *lusterless* silverware – **lus•trous** /ˈlʌstrəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ *lustrous* silk ▪ a *lustrous* [=*shining*] surface

lust•ful /ˈlʌstfəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : feeling or showing strong sexual desire : feeling or showing lust ▪ He looked at her with *lustful* eyes. ▪ *lustful* feelings/dreams/thoughts
– **lust•ful•ly** /ˈlʌstfəli/ *adv* ▪ gazing *lustfully* at one another

lusty /ˈlʌsti/ *adj* **lust•i•er**; **-est**
1 : full of strength and energy ▪ a *lusty* shout/cry ▪ *lusty* [=*powerful*] singing ▪ working with *lusty* determination
2 : LUSTFUL ▪ *lusty* teenagers
– **lust•i•ly** /ˈlʌstəli/ *adv* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ singing *lustily* ▪ cheering/applauding *lustily* – **lust•i•ness** /ˈlʌstinəs/ *noun* [*noncount*]

lute /ˈluːt/ *noun, pl* **lutes** [*count*] : a musical instrument with strings that resembles a guitar and that was played especially in past centuries

Lu•ther•an /ˈluːθərən/ *noun, pl* **-ans** [*count*] : a member of one of the Protestant churches that follow the teachings of Martin Luther
– **Lutheran** *adj*

luv•vie /ˈlʌvi/ *noun, pl* **-vies** [*count*] *Brit, informal* : someone (such as an actor or actress) who is very friendly in a way that does not seem sincere

lux•u•ri•ant /ˌlʌgˈʒɚijənt, *Brit* ˌlʌgˈzjʊəriənt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : having heavy and thick growth : LUSH • a *luxuriant* gray beard • *luxuriant* vegetation
2 : having an appealingly rich quality • a *luxuriant* symphony • *luxuriant* colors
– **lux•u•ri•ance** /ˌlʌgˈʒɚijəns, *Brit* ˌlʌgˈzjʊəriəns/ *noun* [*noncount*] • the *luxuriance* of his beard – **lux•u•ri•ant•ly** *adv* • a *luxuriantly* bearded man

lux•u•ri•ate /ˌlʌgˈʒɚriˌeɪt, *Brit* ˌlʌgˈzjʊəriˌeɪt/ *verb* **-ates**; **-at•ed**; **-at•ing** [*no obj*] : to enjoy something that is appealingly rich or relaxing — usually + *in* • He spent the morning *luxuriating in* his bed. • She *luxuriated in* the beauties of the natural world.

lux•u•ri•ous /ˌlʌgˈʒɚijəs, *Brit* ˌlʌgˈzjʊəriəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : very comfortable and expensive : richly appealing • a *luxurious* apartment/restaurant • one of the country's most *luxurious* resorts/hotels • a *luxurious* fabric/fur
2 : feeling or showing a desire for expensive things • a store that caters to the *luxurious* tastes of the rich
– **lux•u•ri•ous•ly** *adv* • a *luxuriously* furnished/decorated apartment – **lux•u•ri•ous•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

lux•u•ry /ˈlʌkʃəri/ *noun, pl* **-ries**
1 [*noncount*] : a condition or situation of great comfort, ease, and wealth • living in *luxury* • a symbol of *luxury* • the height of *luxury* — often used before another noun • a *luxury* apartment • a *luxury* car/liner • *luxury* goods/items
2 a [*count*] : something that is expensive and not necessary • He spent a fortune on expensive wines and other *luxuries*. • Right now a new car is a *luxury* that I can't afford. • On my salary, I can afford few *luxuries*. **b** [*singular*] : something that is helpful or welcome and that is not usually or always available • We were lucky to have the *luxury* of choosing from among several good options. • We can't afford the *luxury* of waiting any longer.
in the lap of luxury see [1]LAP

luxury box *noun, pl* ~ **boxes** [*count*] *US* : an area with a roof and private seats near the top of a sports stadium

[1]-ly /li/ *adv suffix*
1 : in a (specified) manner • sad*ly* • joking*ly* • slow*ly*
2 a : in a (specified) period of time • The paper is published week*ly*. **b** : to a (specified) degree or extent • extreme*ly* good • relative*ly* cheap • partial*ly* true **c** : in a (specified) place in a series • second*ly* • last*ly*

[2]-ly *adj suffix*
1 : similar in appearance, manner, or nature to a (specified) person • queen*ly* • father*ly*
2 : characterized by regular occurrence in (specified) periods of time • a week*ly* paper

ly•chee *or* **li•tchi** *also* **li•chee** /ˈliːˌʧiː, *Brit* ˈlaɪˌʧiː/ *noun, pl* **-chees** *or* **-tchis** [*count*] : the fruit of an Asian tree that has a hard outer covering and a seed surrounded by sweet flesh; *also* : the tree that produces this fruit

Ly•cra /ˈlaɪkrə/ *trademark* — used for a type of cloth that stretches

lye /ˈlaɪ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a strong chemical that is used especially in making soap

lying *present participle of* LIE

ly•ing–in /ˌlajɪŋˈɪn/ *noun, pl* **lyings–in** *or* **lying–ins** [*count*] *old-fashioned* : the time when a woman lies in bed before, while, and after giving birth to a baby

Lyme disease /ˈlaɪm-/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a serious disease that is spread by the bite of a small insect (called a deer tick)

lymph /ˈlɪmf/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : a pale fluid that contains white blood cells and that passes through channels in the body and helps to keep bodily tissues healthy
– **lym•phat•ic** /lɪmˈfætɪk/ *adj* • *lymphatic* tissue • the *lymphatic* system

lymph node *noun, pl* ~ **nodes** [*count*] *medical* : any one of many rounded masses of tissue in the body through which lymph passes to be filtered and cleaned

lynch /ˈlɪnʧ/ *verb* **lynch•es**; **lynched**; **lynch•ing** [+ *obj*] : to kill (someone) illegally as punishment for a crime • The accused killer was *lynched* by an angry mob.

lynch mob *noun, pl* ~ **mobs** [*count*] : a crowd of people who lynch or try to lynch someone

lynchpin *variant spelling of* LINCHPIN

lynx /ˈlɪŋks/ *noun, pl* **lynx** *or* **lynx•es** [*count*] : a large wild cat of North America — see picture at CAT

lyre /ˈlajɚ/ *noun, pl* **lyres** [*count*] : a musical instrument with strings that was used especially in ancient Greece

[1]lyr•ic /ˈlirɪk/ *noun, pl* **-ics** [*count*]
1 : the words of a song • a song with a beautiful *lyric* — usually plural • a song with beautiful *lyrics* • She knows the *lyrics* to all her favorite songs. • The song's *lyrics* made no sense to her. • Who wrote the *lyrics* for/to this song?
2 : a poem that expresses deep personal feelings in a way that is like a song : a lyric poem • a poet admired for his *lyrics*

[2]lyric *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 a : expressing deep feelings in a way that is like a song • Greek *lyric* poetry **b** : writing lyric poetry • a *lyric* poet
2 *always used before a noun, of an opera singer* : having a light and pure voice • a *lyric* soprano

lyr•i•cal /ˈlirɪkəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having an artistically beautiful or expressive quality • She is noted for her *lyrical* moviemaking style. • a painter known for his *lyrical* landscapes • a *lyrical* account of frontier life
wax lyrical *chiefly Brit, informal* : to talk about something in a very enthusiastic way • He *waxed lyrical* about the time he spent living in southern France.
– **lyr•i•cal•ly** /ˈlirɪkli/ *adv*

lyr•i•cism /ˈlirəˌsɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a quality that expresses deep feelings or emotions in a work of art : an artistically beautiful or expressive quality • poetic *lyricism* • music rich with *lyricism* • the *lyricism* of his paintings

lyr•i•cist /ˈlirəsɪst/ *noun, pl* **-cists** [*count*] : a person who writes the words of a song : a writer of lyrics

M

M

[1]m *or* **M** /ˈɛm/ *noun, pl* **m's** *or* **ms** *or* **M's** *or* **Ms**
1 : the 13th letter of the English alphabet [*count*] a word that starts with an *m* [*noncount*] a word that starts with *m*
2 [*count*] : the Roman numeral that means 1,000 • MM [=2,000]

[2]m *abbr* **1** male **2** married **3** meter **4** mile

M *abbr* **1** medium — usually used for a clothing size • The shirt comes in S, *M*, L, and XL. **2** million

ma /ˈmɑː/ *noun, pl* **mas** [*count*] *informal* : a person's mother • Her *ma* and pa both said she can't go. • When's supper, *Ma*?

MA *abbr* **1** master of arts • She has an *MA* in English. • Laurence Smith, *MA* **2** Massachusetts

ma'am /ˈmæm/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 *US* — used to politely speak to a woman who you do not know • May I help you with your luggage, *ma'am*? [=*madam*]
2 *Brit* — used to speak to the Queen or to a woman of high rank in the police or military

mac *or* **mack** /ˈmæk/ *noun, pl* **macs** *or* **macks** [*count*] *Brit, informal* : MACKINTOSH

Mac /ˈmæk/ *noun* [*singular*] *US, informal + old-fashioned + sometimes impolite* — used to speak to a man who you do not know • Hey, *Mac* [=*buddy*], could you move your car?

ma•ca•bre /məˈkɑːb, məˈkɑːbrə/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : in-